

THE HISTORY OF  
BRECKNOCKSHIRE

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GLANUSK-EDITION





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HISTORY  
OF  
BRECKNOCKSHIRE.







# MAP

of the Antient Provinces of  
**DEMETIA & SILURIA,**  
or  
**DYFED & SYLLWG,**

with the Courses of the Roman Roads thro' those Countries.

- NB The Boundary of Dyfed is Coloured..... Blue  
That between Syllwg & England..... Green  
The Courses of the Julia Strata..... Red  
That of the Sarn Helen or rather }  
Sarn Lleon or Chester Road }..... Yellow  
The other Roman Roads..... Brown  
Single Dotted Lines are the Boundaries  
of Counties.....















## ICHTNOGRAPHY

of the Town of

**BRECKNOCK,**

From a Plan by Meredith Jones,

*Surveyor,*

in 1744.

## REFERENCE.

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 St John the Evangelist's       | 16 Glamorganshire Street |
| 2 The Priory House Cloisters &c  | 17 Captain's Walk        |
| 3 The Castle                     | 18 Watton Gate           |
| 4 Castle Bridge                  | 19 Watton                |
| 5 Upper Bridge on D <sup>o</sup> | 20 Old Bowling Green     |
| 6 Lower D <sup>o</sup>           | 21 Water Gate            |
| 7 Struet Gate                    | 22 Bridge Gate           |
| 8 High Street superior           | 23 Usk Bridge            |
| 9 Town-Wall                      | 24 Usk Mill              |
| 10 St Mary's Chapel              | 25 Struet                |
| 11 The Bulwark                   | 26 Lion Lane             |
| 12 High Street inferior          | 27 Church Street         |
| 13 Ship Street                   | 28 Heol rhydd            |
| 14 Wheat Street                  | 29 The Postern           |
| 15 St Mary's Street              | 30 Pen y dref            |



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# A HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK.

CONTAINING THE CHOROGRAPHY, GENERAL HISTORY, RELIGION, LAWS, CUSTOMS, MANNERS, LANGUAGE, SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE, ANTIQUITIES, SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS, NATURAL CURIOSITIES, VARIATIONS OF THE SOIL, STRATIFICATION, MINERALOGY, LIST OF RARE AND OTHER PLANTS AND BIRDS, PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY, NAMES AND BIOGRAPHIES OF SHERIFFS AND MAYORS OF BRECKNOCK, ALSO THE GENEALOGIES AND ARMS OF THE PRINCIPAL FAMILIES PROPERLY COLOURED AND EMBLAZONED, TOGETHER WITH THE HISTORY OF EVERY PARISH, AND THE NAMES OF THE PATRONS AND INCUMBENTS OF ALL LIVINGS.

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By THEOPHILUS JONES,

Deputy Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Brecon.

Enlarged by the notes collected

By SIR JOSEPH RUSSELL BAILEY, BART., FIRST BARON GLANUSK

(Lord Lieutenant of Brecknockshire).

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*ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS, PORTRAITS, AND MAPS.*

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VOLUME ONE.

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BRECKNOCK :

PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY BLISSETT, DAVIES & CO., 14 BRIDGE STREET,

1909.

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DEDICATED  
TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GODFREY CHARLES,  
SECOND BARON AND FIRST VISCOUNT TREDEGAR,  
IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS LORDSHIP'S  
BENEVOLENT INTEREST IN ALL MATTERS AFFECTING  
THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY,  
AND OF THE GENEROUS  
PATRONAGE HE HAS BESTOWED UPON THIS AND SIMILAR  
WORKS ISSUED BY THE PUBLISHERS.









*Mr. Jones*

From a drawing made by REV. THOS. PRICE ("Carnhuanawc").

*In the possession of Miss G. E. F. Morgan, Brecon.*



## PREFACE.

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**E**XACTLY one hundred years have elapsed since Theophilus Jones published the final volume of his History of Brecknockshire. His narrative closes practically, for general purposes, with the reign of King Henry the Eighth, though in the Parochial Section he carries the history forward to about the year 1800. In the latter department, therefore, more than a century awaits a chronicle.

Since the days when the talented Historian compiled his extensive and interesting work, Archæology has been largely illustrated ; ancient Welsh Literature has been translated by a learned Society into the English tongue ; Geology has been written and re-written as facts have fallen into their places under the pen of the philosopher ; the finest maps the world has ever known have been issued by the Ordnance Survey, rendering a revision of County topography comparatively easy ; and Philology has become a new science. It will, therefore, not be necessary to enlarge upon those matters, for by the liberality of publishers the reader will find ready to his hand many books dealing with them.

But in the domain of purely county history, much remains to be added in order that it may be carried to the present period. Records of the county have been collated and arranged in a manner unknown in 1800. The iron industry of Brecknock has waxed, and alas ! waned ; steam has altered and vastly improved the communications with England, bringing Brecknock within a few hours' journey of the Metropolis and the great trading ports on the Mersey ; towns have sprung into being, and many of the largest houses in the county have been built during the 19th century ; people formerly unknown here have made it their home, and would fain record their modern fortunes after the great names of those who, in earlier times, moulded the history of the county.

The old bridle paths have given place to good roads laid in every direction throughout the county, making transit easy for man and beast ; waterways, established over a century ago, and for many years extensively used for the conveyance of merchandize, have been gradually but surely superseded by various railway systems ; elective bodies now control the business affairs of the county, for so many years managed exclusively by the magistrates, and this method of popular representative government has been extended to every town and almost every parish ; the criminal law is administered with strict regard to the cause of justice, and the punishment of offenders is no longer inflicted with barbarity ; there has been a gradual but gratifying abatement of serious crime ; a crude and limited system of education, in operation up to quite recent times, has been replaced by a more generous and perfect National code, rendering possible the admission of even the humblest into the Universities, to the learned professions, and the service of the Church and State ; our ancient Royal foundation, Christ College, rescued from the list of perishing and mismanaged institutions, equipped with new buildings and competent teachers, and placed under vigorous government, has developed into one of the most efficient educational establishments in Wales ; and added to this we have those various Secondary Schools provided under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act.

The enactment of laws relating to water and sanitation has materially added to the comfort, health, and happiness of the people. The old candle illuminating power, replaced by oil lamps, and subsequently by gas and electricity, no longer provides employment for the tallow chandler, in which business many families of respectability were engaged and amassed wealth



and influence ; and most, though not all, of the old woollen and milling factories have disappeared. Land cultivation has undergone a material change, rural populations have steadily decreased, leaving ruined cottages to mark the places where once resided families wholly engaged in agricultural pursuits. Increased activities in the coal and iron industries, employment upon railways and the like, and migration into the towns in search of the larger wages offered, have undoubtedly been factors in promoting this general exodus from the land, but the fact remains that in many parts of the county the plough is rarely brought into use, the farmer contenting himself in too many instances with the task of rearing stock for the markets, and thereby diminishing the opportunities of employment for the agricultural labourer.

These are but some of the changes which have taken place since the first appearance of Theophilus Jones' work in 1809. The recital of them will give the reader some idea of the additional material needed to complete the narrative as between that period and the present.

From the preface to Jones' first volume, we learn that the work owed its origin to the perusal of the collections of a friend of his, whose talents, said Jones, were much better calculated to elucidate the subjects and record the events here treated of, than it had fallen to his lot to possess ; but a determination on the part of that friend not to appear before the public, and his wish that Jones should undertake a history of their native county, and the kind promise of his assistance, induced Theophilus Jones to commence and encouraged him to persevere in a labour which he described as "foreign to my profession, though congenial to my feelings and my pursuits."

But even this assistance and encouragement from his friend did not relieve the task of very grave responsibilities and difficulties. The Historian's enquiries and pursuit after knowledge evidently made him an object of suspicion to many, for we find him writing : "Should the Historian seek access to them [documents], and should that Historian unfortunately be of the profession of the law, . . . . suspicion is alive and prudence bolts the door against the intruder, who it is supposed can have no other motive for his inquiries than the discovery of objections to titles, the propagation of scandal, or the abrasion of old sores which have long cicatrized." But notwithstanding this, Jones was able to get together for publication a mass of information relating to Wales and Brecknockshire which found no rival in any work published in his time upon any other Welsh county.

With all the impediments encountered, Jones fortunately found many whom he was able to thank for their assistance. He pays a grateful tribute to the memory of the Duke of Beaufort of his day, who not only offered a liberal contribution towards the expenses of the work, but also immediately attended to his communications ; and he likewise acknowledges a similar obligation to Sir Charles Morgan, of Tredegar. "To some respectable noblemen," he adds, "whose time was so completely occupied in the service of the State, or the duties of the Senate, that it became inconvenient to them to return a written answer to my application, I am indebted for their good wishes, as well as their benevolent intentions of contributing a few eleemosynary guineas towards the expense of the publication and the support of the publisher, which have been occasionally most kindly communicated to me by their agents ; and to many of the gentlemen and inhabitants of the county who were really anxious that I should prosecute what they considered as a public utility, and who were ready to assist in the execution of it, I return my most unfeigned thanks."

The first volume was dedicated by Jones to the Rev. Thomas Payne, rector of Llanbedr and Partricio and vicar of Devynock in the county of Brecknock, "as an acknowledgment of the assistance he has received and in testimony of the friendship which he feels as proud thus publicly to avow as he is happy in private life to experience." This portion of the History was published in 1805 at £2 12s. 6d. to subscribers only.

The second volume, issued in two parts, was not published until 1809, at a cost of £4 to subscribers, making a total for the completed work of £6 12s. 6d. The preface to the second volume is principally devoted to answering criticisms of the first volume, but Jones finds







(Photographed from a book-plate in Lampeter Library).



THE HOUSE IN LION STREET WHERE THEO. JONES LIVED AND DIED.



opportunity to thank several gentlemen for assistance rendered, including Dr. Turton, Rev. Mr. Nares of the British Museum, Mr. Townsend of the Herald's Office, Mr. William Owen Pugh, the Rev. Walter Davies, Mr. Penry Williams of Penpont, Mr. L. W. Dillwyn, the Rev. Thomas Williams of Brecon, Miss Bird, and the Rev. James Donne of Oswestry.

This work of Jones's was the first real attempt at a county history within the Principality, and the first book above the size of a pamphlet ever printed and published within the county of Brecon, if we except a few Bibles from the Trevecca printing press. That typographical errors should appear is not to be wondered at, especially as the Author had had no experience in reading press proofs. Indeed, considering the primitive condition of the printing trade in Breconshire in those days, the marvel is that the book should have been so well produced. The second volume was dedicated by Jones in these words: "To the Rev. Edward Davies of Olveston, in the County of Gloucester, author of *Celtic Researches*, &c., the associate of his youth, the kind correspondent and assistant in his literary pursuits, the sincere friend in mature age, and oh! may he add, in trembling hope, '*si modo digni erimus*,' the partaker of a blissful eternity, this volume is gratefully inscribed by the author."

Miss G. E. F. Morgan, of Buckingham Place, Brecon, has written, ably and sympathetically, a Biography of Theophilus Jones<sup>1</sup>, and we have extracted therefrom the following particulars relating to the County Historian.

Theophilus Jones was the only son of the Rev. Hugh Jones, Vicar of Llangammarch and Llywel, and Prebendary of Boughrood, Llanbedr Painscastle, whose father, another Hugh Jones, married Mary, daughter of Rees Lloyd, of Nantmel, a member of the family of Lloyd of Rhosferig and Aberannell. Our Historian was thus of the line of Elystan Glodrydd, Prince of Ferregs, whose descendants peopled the hundred of Builth, and through his paternal grandmother he was connected with the Jeffreyses of Brecon and the Watkinses of Penoyre.

The Rev. Hugh Jones married Elinor, elder daughter of the Rev. Theophilus Evans, vicar of Llangammarch from 1738 to 1763, in which year he resigned the living in favour of his son-in-law, Mr. Hugh Jones; Mr. Evans was also vicar of St. David's, Brecon, to which he was inducted 8th June, 1739. It is always interesting to note the hereditary influences which have helped to form the tastes and characters of remarkable men, and no account of Theophilus Jones's life would be complete that did not touch on the career of his maternal grandfather, who seems to have been a man of considerable ability, and is spoken of by his grandson with affectionate respect.

Theophilus Evans was the fifth son of Charles Evans, of Pen-y-wenallt, Cardiganshire, of the tribe of Gwynfardd Dyfed, whose father had suffered even to imprisonment for his loyalty to Charles I. He was born in 1694, ordained deacon in 1718, and priest in 1719, by the Bishop of St. David's. The friendship existing between his countrymen the Lloyds of Millfield and the Gwynnes of Glanbran, induced him to settle in this county.

Mr. Evans lived at Llwyn Eion, in Llangammarch (now a farmhouse), and on his death left the little estate to Theophilus Jones, who honoured the memory of his grandfather by a peculiar attachment to the place. The Rev. Theophilus Evans died September 11th, 1767, aged 73, and was buried in the Churchyard of Llangammarch, "near the stile entering from the east."

Theophilus Jones was born in Brecon on 18th October, 1759, and on 8th November following he was baptized in the chapel of St. Mary in that town. His father was at that time curate of St. David's, Brecon, and lived in a charming old house in Lion Street (one of the many town residences of the county families, who used to come to Brecon for the Assizes and other gatherings), where Dr. George Bull, Bishop of St. David's, had died earlier in the

<sup>1</sup> "Theophilus Jones, Historian: His Life, Letters, and Literary Remains. Biography by Miss G. E. F. Morgan. Letters, &c., compiled by Edwin Davies, of Brecon." Demy 8vo., 7s. 6d.; published by Davies & Co., 14 Bridge Street, Brecon. *Portraits*, &c.



century. The future Historian passed some of his early years at Llwyn Einon, and, young though he was, there can be little doubt that his antiquarian tastes were awakened and fostered by his grandfather, from whom he inherited valuable materials for the History. The Rev. Thomas Price, who was born in the hundred of Builth less than a generation later, has left a graphic picture of the manners and customs of the inhabitants of that district: "Brought up, as I have been, in the remote parts of the Principality, often do I dwell with pleasure upon the recollections of my infancy: when in the winter's night I sat in the circle around the fire under the spacious chimney-piece, and listened to the songs and traditions of the peasantry, or to the poetry of David ab Gwilym read by the firelight; and if but a harper should chance to visit us happy was the day, yea, I might say, earthly speaking, blessed was the time. . . . . About the year 1750 the young people in Wales were very fond of dancing. They met together frequently in parties, and danced country dances, some of which had four and twenty variations, all of which were to be danced through; and I think there were variations in the figure of the dance to correspond to those of the tune. . . . . The introduction of Methodism made a great change in the habits of the people. Dancing was altogether discouraged as profane."

Theophilus Jones was educated at Christ's College, Brecknock, which was then a large and flourishing school, attended by the sons of the surrounding country gentry, amongst whom he found many friends, and here began the life-long regard which existed between him and the Rev. Edward Davies, of Olveston, co. Gloucester, the learned author of *Celtic Researches*, *Mythology of the British Druids*, and other works. During the time he was at Christ's College, the Head Master was the Rev. David Griffith (grandfather of the late Rev. Charles Griffith, M.A., of Glyn Celyn, Brecon), an accomplished scholar, of whom he spoke in after years as "the respected and respectable preceptor of my youth." His parents having decided that he should become a lawyer, Theophilus Jones was articulated to Mr. Penoyre Watkins, a solicitor in large practice then living in Brecon; and having passed through this period with great credit, upon the expiration of his articles he entered the profession on his own account, and continued in it for many years, practising with equal reputation and success as a solicitor and attorney in his county town.

He married Mary, daughter of Rice Price, Esq., of Porth-y-Rhyd, in the county of Carmarthen (who was a member of the family of Price of Cilgwyn, a branch of the Prices of Glynllech, in Ystradgunlais), by Mary, daughter of Daniel Williams, Esq., of Llwynwormwood. A vacancy occurring in the Deputy Registrarship of the Archdeaconry of Brecon, he was appointed to that office, which he held until his death. To this circumstance we are probably indebted for the History, which will be for ever associated with the name of Theophilus Jones. Amongst the documents committed to his care were the records of the various parishes for centuries past, in the perusal of which he must have obtained a great amount of the information he afterwards introduced into his History. There is every reason to believe that he had no natural inclination for the profession to which he had been brought up, his chief delight being in literary studies and antiquarian research, but it was not until the year 1800 or 1801 that he seriously entertained the idea of writing the History of his native county.

His father, the Rev. Hugh Jones, died 2nd April, 1799 (and was buried in St. David's Churchyard with his wife Elinor, who died 24th July, 1786), and this circumstance may have had much to do with the determination he now formed. He found it was quite impossible to write the History and at the same time to carry on his other duties. On their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Theophilus Jones lived in a large and comfortable house in Mount Street, Brecon, now converted into an inn known as "The George," the rooms of which are oak-panelled and lofty, where they remained until his father's death, when they moved to the house in Lion Street, in which the History was written. In a letter, dated Oct. 4th, 1801, to the Rev. Edward Davies, he says: "I've such a room! such a study! . . . . it is at the back part of the house, no noise or interruption, except now and then a call into the office . . . . I laugh, I laugh at the imps of gloominess." Having a small patrimony of his own, he determined, with his wife's



consent, to give up his practice, and live upon his private means, so that he might have time to prosecute his labours in compiling the History, which he succeeded in doing, though he lost upwards of £400 in the undertaking. He disposed of his practice to his partner, Mr. Samuel Church, of Ffrwdgrech, reserving to himself the Deputy Registrarship, which enabled him to have access to the various deeds, wills, &c., which were so important in his researches, though it was not until 1809 that he was able to write: "Done with the law!"

Having now the leisure in which to pursue the great object of his life, he spared neither time nor expense in its execution. He personally visited every parish in the county; he copied the mural and monumental inscriptions in every church (many of which have entirely disappeared during the "restorations" of recent years); he collected the folk-lore and legends from the aged inhabitants; he gathered all the information that could be acquired, and industriously gleaned from every repository that was open to his inspection, the contents of such documents as might enlarge, illustrate, or enrich his work. His perfect acquaintance with the language of his country enabled him to employ them to the best advantage. He availed himself largely of Hugh Thomas's MS, "Essay towards a History of Brecknockshire," which is preserved at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and a portion of which is in the possession of Mr. George Hay, of Brecon. No man could have taken greater pains than Mr. Jones did, and we may be quite sure that whatever errors occur in the earlier part of his genealogies (and they are few), they are correct for at least one hundred years before the time he wrote, which period would include all his original work. So painstaking a man would have carefully recorded from the lips of the oldest members of the various families the names of their immediate ancestors, and any circumstances of interest connected with them. The original MS. of the History was in the late Mr. Joseph's library, and he bequeathed it to Mr. Buckley, of Bryn-y-Caerau, Carmarthenshire.

Theo. Jones's last illness is supposed to have arisen from the effect of gout upon a constitution much weakened by repeated attacks of the malady. He lingered for some time, and after severe suffering died 15th January, 1812, at his house in Lion Street, Brecon (now the property of Captain D. Hughes Morgan, J.P. for the County and Borough of Brecon, and H.S. in 1900, and the residence of Dr. T. Price Thomas), where his father, the Rev. Hugh Jones, had lived and died. He was buried at Llangammarch, in the same grave as his maternal grandfather, whose memory through life he held in the highest veneration. "When I am dead," he said, "let me be buried in the grave of my grandfather, and let my inscription be: 'Here lies Theophilus Jones, the grandson of Theophilus Evans.'" His widow erected in Christ's College Chapel, Brecon (where he had been educated when a boy, of which he had been for many years chapter clerk, and in the improvement of which he had ever taken the deepest interest), a white and grey marble tablet to his memory, with the following inscription<sup>1</sup>:—"To the memory of Theophilus Jones, Esq., late Chapter Clerk of this Collegiate Church, and Deputy Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Brecknock. He died January the 15th, 1812, aged 51. His remains, with those of his maternal grandfather, Theophilus Evans, Clk., lie interred in the Cemetery of Llangammarch. This marble but records his name—the History of this, his loved, his native County, will long survive and be his Monument. The above Theophilus Jones was the son of the Rev. Hugh Jones, who was Prebendary of Boughrood, Llanbedr Painscastle, of this Collegiate Church."

The tombstone in Llangammarch Churchyard was restored in the year 1889, and there is also a memorial tablet in that Church.

Previous to 1898, Theophilus Jones's History was known to but few persons. Occasionally a copy was put up for sale at a public auction, and realized prices varying from £8 to £10; indeed a copy was sold for as much as £14 14s. In that year, however, Mr. Edwin Davies of Brecon, undertook the publication of a complete re-print at a price which brought the book

<sup>1</sup> There is some mistake as to his age, but the inscription is given as copied from the tablet. On his tombstone in Llangammarch Churchyard, the Historian's age is stated to be 52.



within the reach of a larger circle of readers. This new edition was speedily sold, and very many of the copies were subsequently bought up at enhanced prices for the American book market; and in 1902 a third edition was projected.

Previous to this, the late Lord Glanusk, whose interest and activities in county matters were very great, began a collection of the materials necessary to continue the County History to his time, and some two years after the date of his lamented death on January 8th, 1906, his lordship's papers relating to this work were tabulated and arranged for publication. Where a particular parish had not been completed by Lord Glanusk, the materials have since been collected in harmony with the plan he adopted.

It appears to have been no part of his lordship's idea to interfere with the general scope of the old Historian's work, but rather to supplement it with such details as were needed to carry the General and Parochial History to a later date, and add thereto further notes upon the Sheriffs, Members of Parliament, the County families, and Mayors of Brecknock. His lordship also made copious extracts from the County Records, which shed a new light upon county history.

In another part of this work, some reference has been made to the many public services rendered to the county by the late Lord Glanusk, and it only remains to add here an expression of sincere regret that his lordship should have been removed by death before he had carried this third edition through the press. A conscientious effort has been made, at the expenditure of nearly two year's anxious labour, to produce this Edition on lines which were thought to be those intended by his lordship.

The work has been divided into four volumes, with an index to each. The thick paper copies are bound in four volumes, but the other copies are bound two volumes in one. Many of the numerous engravings now added are from photographs collected by Lord Glanusk, some have been obtained from persons interested in the work, and the others from photographs specially taken for the purpose. All the plates in the original edition have been reproduced.

Grateful acknowledgments are tendered to those ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly answered correspondence relating to this work, for amending and adding to family pedigrees, and in other ways assisting; and especially to those noblemen, ladies, and gentlemen who have contributed to the publication by the addition of their names to the list of subscribers, which will be found printed at the end of the fourth volume.

14 Bridge Street,  
Brecon, July, 1909.

EDWIN DAVIES.









NORTH VIEW OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BRECON.  
(Drawn about 1845).



INTERIOR OF PRIORY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BRECON.  
(Drawn about 1845).



# THE HISTORY OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

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## CHAPTER I.

Of its ancient and present Name.—Definition of both.—The District in which it formerly was and now is comprehended.—Boundaries described.—Extent in Length and Breadth.—Population.—Principal Rivers.—Mountains and Vallies.—General Nature of the Soil.—Observations upon the Climate and Atmosphere.—Rainfall.—Place-Names.

### ANCIENT AND PRESENT NAME OF THE COUNTY.

**B**RECKNOCKSHIRE, now also called BRECONSHIRE, was anciently known by the name of Garthmarthrin, or Garthmadrin. Brecknock, on the authority of ancient manuscripts, is said to be identical with Garthmarthrin. The grandsire of Brychan is described as “King of Morganwg (Glamorgan), Gwent (Monmouth), and Garthmarthrin.” “Brychan inherited from his mother the territory of Garthmarthrin, which he called after his own name Brycheiniog.” The latter portion of the name *Garthmarthrin* closely resembles the last syllables of *Caermarthen*. The likeness becomes more striking as the first syllable of each is considered. *Caer* means a camp; *Garth* is akin to yard, garden, and the French *jardin*. It signifies a place guarded. On an old plan of Tintern Abbey the cloistered court is styled “the Garth.” The word occurs more than once in Brecknock as a hill name, and is found in composition in *Tal-garth*, *Garth-brengy*; in *Pembrokeshire* it appears as *Fish-guard*. The entire name *Garth-marthrin* and *Caer-marthrin* seems to be nearly identical. South Wales was not divided into counties until the time of King Henry VIII., and it is very possible that the centre of the county of Brecknock and the county of *Caermarthen* may in remote days have formed one district under the same rules and be known under names almost alike.

Brecknock, or Breconshire, as the County Council has decided to style the county in official documents, is one of the many local names which have become the playground of writers on the subject. Some have ventured to assert that as *Wrekin* (the Salopian mountain) is derived from *Gwrychin*, a bristle, *Brycheiniog* may be a corruption of *Gwrychiniog*, in a land bristling with hills; they feel themselves strengthened in this view by the fact that some neighbouring counties derive their names from physical characteristics—*Pen-bro*, the head-land; *Mor-gan-wy*, land of the sea-song. No evidence exists in favour of this allegation. Brecknock, written to the varying orthography of the times, *Brecheiniog*, *Breckiniawg*, and otherwise, but always in a manner suggesting a similar sound, has been the name of at least part of the county from very early days. We who dwell within the county are content to believe that *Brychan*, a prince ruling 400 and 450 A.D., named his county after himself—*Brycheiniog*, the land of *Brychan*.

### DEFINITION OF NAME.

The termination *auc*, *awg*, *wg*, or *og*, is adjectival. In the laws of the Welsh King, *Howell the Good*, bearing date 940 A.D., *Taeog* (-*Ty-og*) is used to mean a peasant, the inhabitant of a house (*Ty*). Though *Brycheiniog* is not therein mentioned, the syllable *wg* seems to have been common as a territorial termination, the first syllable being, at least sometimes, the rulers named: “South Wales is in three parts, *Rheinwg*, *that is the county of Rhein*, and *Riellwg*, and *Morganwg*.”

There is a very old chronicle of Wales, *Annales Cambriæ*, the approximate date 1288 A.D. It is written in Latin, but is considered to have been translated from a Welsh manuscript, the Welsh names being given in the forms prevalent in early times. In this it is three times stated that “the Northmen” (meaning the Danes) “came and devastated Brecknock”—“*Nordmani venerunt et vastaverunt Bricheniauc* (*Brecheinawc*—*Brechenawc*);—and the death of *Rhys*, son of *Teudwr*, at Brecknock, by the hands of the French, as the Normans were then called, is thus given: “1091 *Resus filius Teudyr, rector dextratis partis a Franc is Brechenawc occisus est*”—*Breckenawc* being almost identical in sound with Brecknock.



In the *Brut y Tywysogion* (the "Chronicles of the Princes"), written in the 14th century, it is stated that "Ithel, King of Gwent, was slain A.D. 848 by the men of Brycheinawg"; it is also recorded there, with a delicate appreciation of the relative importance of the neighbouring countries, that "in 894 the Northmen devastated England, Brecheiniog, Morganwg, Gwent, Buallt, and Gwenllwg." The name of the county, differing sometimes in a single letter, indicates throughout the book a pronunciation closely equivalent to Brecknock.

In *Dugdale's Monasticon*, copies of ancient charters are given—"Cartæ ad Breckenockense Cæobium in Walliam." No. 1 begins: "Le premier conqueror des tres Cantrefs de la terre de Breckenock estayt Bernard de Newmarch." No. 3 is in Latin, and begins: "*Sciant omnes quod ego dedi Deo et Ecclesio Sancti Johannis de Brecknock*," etc. (Know all men that I have given to God and the Church of St. John of Brecknock, etc.) Instances have now been given from Welsh, Norman, and Latin sources when translated from the Welsh, in all of which the name of the district, now the centre of the county, is Breckenawc and not Brecon.

To those who prefer English authorities, may be given Leland's *Itinerary* in the time of Henry VIII: "Then to Brekenok, when nere to I cam downe hilles," etc.; "Usk Bridge at Brekenoc was thrown by the rage of Uske water; it was not by rain, but by snow melted that cam out of the mountains." Elementary schools existed not in the middle ages, but men spelled as it seemed to them they heard. We may close our list of Authorities with Mr. William Shakespeare, who in his play "King Richard Third" (Act 4, scene 2), makes the Duke of Buckingham say—

"Oh, let me think of starting, and begone

To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on."

When, in the reign of King Henry VIII., South Wales was divided into counties, it was natural to enact that certain "Lordships," etc., "shall be reputed as membres of the counties or shire of Brekenok." Since that time "Brecon" appears in some Acts of Parliament, and it is now considered permissible to use Brecknock or Brecon at the pleasure of the writer.

#### THEOPHILUS JONES' REMARKS ON NAME, &C., OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

Theophilus Jones says: "For the time when this appellation (Garthmadrin) was assumed or conferred, the historian looks in vain; not even the glimmering light of fable or tradition can he hope to receive or expect to conduct him in his researches. It is however, worthy of remark, that this name remained in Brecknockshire until the dissolution of religious houses in Great Britain, or at least until the attainder of the last Duke of Buckingham of the name of Stafford; for in the rolls in the Augmentation Office, in the 17th of Queen Mary, among his possessions, are recited 'rents of assize amounting to £11 15s. 8d. from tenants at will in Garthmadrin,' within the lordship of Brecknock.

"This word is compounded of *Garth* and *Madrin*. The former in the British language, signifies a clift, or a precipitous, or abrupt eminence, and is a synonym with *Allt* or *Gallt*, though the latter is generally covered with wood. *Madrin* is an obsolete word for a fox, which has been since succeeded by *Llwynog*, or the inhabitant of the bushes; and afterwards by *Cadno*, pronounced *Canddo*, the only name by which this nocturnal depredator is at present known in South Wales; assuming therefore, (as we fairly may), that at a very remote period of antiquity, these animals prowled without controul or interruption through the woody brakes which covered the vallies of this country, until upon the approach of man they were driven into their fastnesses, where they resided for such a length of time as to characterize this part of the principality, and from whence they were driven and nearly destroyed, by that favourite of the Deity, on whom was graciously conferred 'dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the face of the earth.' The appellation of Garthmadrin, under such circumstances, must be admitted to be peculiarly appropriate to Breconshire, whose surface is a succession of undulations, and whose general description may be said with Leland, to be very *montanius*.

"Brecknockshire derives its present appellation from a prince or regulus of that country, of the name of Brychan, who ruled over it about the year of Christ 400, and died in 450, or thereabouts. From him,<sup>1</sup> this part of the principality of Wales was called the Land of Brychan, which in the

<sup>1</sup> It has been suggested, with some degree of plausibility, that as Wrekin (perhaps from Crugyn, a hillock, or Gwryehin, a bristle) means an abrupt or steep mountain; Brecheiniog may be a corruption of Wrekinog, or rather Cruginiog or Gwrychiniog, full of mountains, or sharp ridges of hills, resembling the bristles on a hog's back, which it is said is confirmed by the neighbouring counties being called Mor gan wg, the maritime county; Penfro, the head of the valley, or promontory on the western extremity of this island; but though this definition is

peculiarly applicable to these three shires, the etymology is novel, not perfectly idiomatical, such a change in the initial letter unusual, and as the concurring opinion of ages and authors who have written upon the subject have established the right of this British prince to give the name to Breconshire, he may as well be allowed to retain that honour in future (if such it be), and with due reference to the antiquarian, further conjectures may be said to be unnecessary.



British language has been written at different periods, and according to the differing orthography of the times, Brechiniawg, Breehiniog, and Breeheiniog.

“ Before the act of Henry VIII., which divided Wales into counties, the English with propriety called this tract of country Brecknock, or the dominion or lordship of Brecknock, which has a near resemblance in sound to Brechiniawg or Breehiniog. This termination *auc*, *awg*, *wg* or *og*,<sup>1</sup> is intended in the British tongue to give to proper names ‘*a local habitation*,’ and generally signifies a region or territory, of which the preceding part of the word is descriptive. Since the statute above alluded to there is no error (as has been sometimes supposed) in calling this district Breconshire, quasi Brychan’s shire; and as custom has sanctioned the indiscriminate use of this latter appellation, as well as that of Brecknockshire, the reader will not be surprized, or attribute it to inattention, if both these names occur in the course of this work.

“ Though we know not with any certainty the period when Britain, and particularly that part of it which lies westward of the Severn and the Dee, called formerly, and since by the natives Cymru, and now by the English Wales, was first inhabited, yet it is clear from the Roman stations and forts, as well as their public roads and works, still visible in this country, that it must have been peopled (thinly, as has already been observed), before they invaded this island. The introduction of the troops and garrisons of this enemy into the more fertile parts of the kingdom, in all probability, drove many to settle in those mountainous regions, and the subsequent incursions added to their numbers; though even as late as the 5th century, we find the region of which we are about to treat, still described by the name of Garthmadrin. Wales, however, even at that time, was divided into North and South; the former was called by the Welsh, Gwynedd, or y Gogleddir, and the latter Deheubarth, (and sometimes Dyfed), which the Romans latinized into Venedotia and Demetia, to which two provinces a third was afterwards added, called Powys.

#### SOUTH WALES DIVIDED.

“ South Wales was again divided (but at what period it is difficult to determine, as will be seen by and by), into Syllwg or Siluria, and Dyfed or Demetia; but etymologists are as much at a loss to define these words, as historians are to ascertain the boundaries of the two countries. Syllwg, says Edward Williams, means, ‘a county abounding in beautiful prospects;’ consequently the Syllwyr or Silures were men who delighted to look at beautiful prospects, or in other words, lovers of landscape. This is very ingenious, very pretty, and very poetical. The learned Dr. Whitaker, in his genuine history of the Britons, tells us that Silures means ‘Sil or ill ur, the great men, or they are great men.’

“ Dyfed, says Baxter in his glossary, is derived from defaid, sheep, because this country abounded with pasturage for sheep; and Rowland Jones of the Inner Temple, in his *Origin of Languages and Nations* (London, 1764) pronounces the word to have been originally Di-fyd, without habitation, abode, or livelihood! Neither of these attempts at derivation are intitled to the smallest attention, and the latter is absurd. Dyfed means precisely the same as the modern British word for South Wales, Deheubarth, which has superseded it; indeed the latter may be said to be a corruption or alteration of Deheufod or Deâufod, the country on the right; Bôd being a common termination in that language, and signifying a place of residence, as Cwmbôd or Cwmwd, now pronounced Comot, a residence in the vale; and Hâfod or Hâf-bod, a summer retreat. It is indeed remarkable, that the Welsh have no other name for the South than Deheu, the right; an inhabitant therefore of that country, when describing the four points of the compass, is supposed to stand in the West with his face towards the East, in which situation, he calls the North y Gogledd, (a radical Welsh word), y Gogledd-dir, or y Gogleddfod; and the South and neighbouring regions, Deheu, Deheubarth, Deheu-dir, or Deheu-fod, the land on the right, or on the right hand. The East and West are called y Ddwyrain, and y Gorlewin; two of the most beautiful and poetical words which any language can boast of. The first may be translated the active or lively, and joyous arising, and reminds us of that sublime passage in the Psalms of David, in which it is said the sun ‘cometh as a bridegroom out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course,’ and the latter word means, a resting place on high; both these expressions are now nearly obsolete, and the points are in South Wales generally described by the English names, even by those who speak the Welsh language. But to return to Dyfed (in which province we apprehend Breconshire was included, notwithstanding the general opinion is to the contrary)<sup>2</sup> Giraldus Cambrensis<sup>3</sup> makes the province so called, to comprehend the whole of South Wales, while Sir John Price and Powel<sup>4</sup> confine it to Pem-

<sup>1</sup> Awg or og at the end of a word, also sometimes signifies the inhabitant of a place or country, as Ty, a house; Taeawg or Taeog, the inhabitant of a house, a peasant, &c. (*Hywel Dda’s laws*.) In this it has an adjective quality, which cannot well be translated into English, or at least not without much circuit.

<sup>2</sup> A writer in the *Cambrian Register* (vol. 2. p. 8) agrees in placing Breconshire among the Dinetæ.

<sup>3</sup> *Itin. passim. Cambriae descriptio.*

<sup>4</sup> Description of Wales, prefixed to Powel’s history, Powel’s hist. of Wales.



brokeshire alone; others have supposed that it 'consisted of Caerdiganshire only;' and Warrington<sup>1</sup> says, Monmouthshire and the whole of South Wales were in Demetia, excepting Radnorshire. Camden, upon the authority of Ptolomy, asserts, that the Dimetæ inhabited Caermarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Cardiganshire. But let us see what Ptolomy says, (we use a translation published at Frankfort, in 1605):

Iterum sub dictis populis (Trinoantes aut Trinobantes) sunt metæ aliter Dimetæ in quibus urbes  
 Loventium.  
 Maridunum.  
 His magis *orientales* Silyres sunt in quibus urbs  
 Bulleum.<sup>2</sup>

#### THE MISSING CITY OF LOVENTIUM.

"Here then we have one city with its '*muris coctilibus*' safe enough. The Muridunum or Maridunum of the ancients, has been universally admitted to be the modern Caermarthen; but ask where Loventinum or Loventium was,

'Twas here, 'twas there,  
 At Nova Zembla, or the Lord knows where.

"If it was situate, as Camden conjectures, where Llangorse pool or Brecknock mere now is, there is an end of the difficulty at once, and Brecknockshire is part of Dyfed from the evidence of the author whom he himself quotes.<sup>3</sup> One of Camden's annotators having heard of the discovery of some old ruins and bricks in Cardiganshire, has, from the *similarity of the sounds*, placed Lovantium as he calls it, at Llannio issa, in that county; this is something like Fluellin's Macedon and Monmouth, for there are certainly *ls* in both;<sup>4</sup> but if every Llan in Wales be a Loventium, we shall have cities enough to supply the continent of Europe. But let us hear Camden's own words, for he certainly forgets that he is in Demetia, when he talks upon the subject. According to *his* arrangement, speaking of Llynsavaddan or Llangorse mere, he says,<sup>5</sup> (and says truly), 'it hath been an antient tradition in this neighbourhood, that where the lake is now, there was formerly a city, which being swallowed up by an earthquake, resigned its place to the waters; and to confirm this, they alledge besides other arguments, that all the highways in this country tend to the lake; which, if true, what other city may we suppose on the river Lleweny,<sup>6</sup> but Loventium, *placed by Ptolomy in this tract*, which, though I have diligently searched for, yet there appears no where any remains of the name, ruins, or situation of it.' If therefore, Loventium was not here, it may be very safely asserted, that all vestiges of it elsewhere are totally effaced, and that all further attempts to ascertain its site can only end in idle conjecture and useless labour.

#### THE ANCIENT NAME OF BUILTH.

"Some of those who wish to support Camden's opinion, that Breconshire was part of Siluria, have said, that Builth in that county, was the antient Bulleum Silurum; but though Builth has a greater resemblance to Bulleum, than Llannio issa to Loventium, it is the adjacent country or *hundred* of Builth only which has been called Bualt, or Gwlad Fualt, the land of Boscage. The town which is not of the highest antiquity, has always gone by the name of Llanfair or Llanvair ymhualt, Saint Mary's in Builth; and at this day, any one who says in the Welsh language, *Yr ydwyfi'n byw ymhualt*, (I live in Builth,) is understood to mean that he lives in the country, and not in the town of Builth. Upon the authority therefore of Camden alone, supported or rather unsupported as he is, if not contradicted by the historian whom he quotes, rests the present general belief that the *inhabitants* of Breconshire were Silures, and that the country was not part of the province of Dyfed; for we lay no great stress (as far as it regards this question) upon a dispute at a very early period, between a bishop of Llandaff and a bishop of Saint David's about the lands of Ystradyw and Ewyas; as it frequently happened formerly, as at present, that a diocese had possessions in two provinces. But if the conjecture as to Llangorse pool's being the site of Loventium be correct, or if Giraldus Cambrensis

<sup>1</sup> Warrington's hist. of Wales, vol. I. 8 vo. edit. p. 227.

<sup>2</sup> This is a strange description, "much to the West of these (the Trinoantes or Trinobantes) are the Metæ or Dimetæ, among whom are situated the cities of Loventium and Maridunum, &c." To the westward of the Trinoantes or Trinobantes (the inhabitants of Middlesex and Essex) were the Catieuchlani, or inhabitants of Buckinghamshire; then proceeding westward, the Attrebatæ, or inhabitants of Berkshire; then the Dobuni, or men of Gloucestershire; then the Silures, or men of Monmouthshire, Glamorganshire, and Herefordshire; and lastly, westward of all these were the Dimetæ; so that this is pretty much to the same effect as if a geographer describing modern

Europe, said "To the westward of Little Tartary is France, on the east of which is Switzerland."

<sup>3</sup> Note in Camden's Britannia, or Cardiganshire.

<sup>4</sup> Since the above was written, we have been informed that there are evidently the remains of the works of the Romans at Llannio; we are by no means inclined to deny that that people had a station, and perhaps a very considerable one in this place, but we are not prepared to admit the inference, that it *must* be the site of Loventium.

<sup>5</sup> Camden's Brecknockshire.

<sup>6</sup> Llevenni, is pronounced Llynvy. Surely there is more of Loventium in the name of this river than in Llannio issa.



be accurate, though he proves rather too much, Camden must be wrong; and as the mistake of so respectable an author, first raised and has since continued this error, so that it is now become inveterate, and perhaps after all, incorrigible, we trust it will not be necessary to apologize, if this subject should require some further discussion, as well as consideration.

## RELIGIOUS HOUSES IN DYFED.

“Among the laws of Hywel Dda (an authority infinitely superior to Ptolomy or Camden upon this subject) we have an account of the religious houses in *Dyfed*, belonging to the see of St. David's, among which, are Llandegemman and Llangeneu; but as the book is rather scarce, though to be had in most public libraries, we shall quote the words:

Am saith ysgopty Dyfed.<sup>1</sup>

Saith ysgopty sydd yn Nyfed, un yw Mynyw yn eisteddfa arbennig, a Mynyw yw'r penna ynghymru; ail yw eglwys Ismael; trydydd yw Llandegemman; pedwerydd yw Llanussyllld; pymmed Llandeilaw; chweched Llandyflydog; saithfed yw Llangenau. Llangenau a Llanussyllld rhydd ynt o ebediweu, canys nid oes tyr eglwys iddynt.

Concerning the seven religious houses of Demetia.

There are seven religious houses in Dyfed, one is at Menevia, the cathedral, and this is the first in all Wales; another is Saint Ismael; the third is Llandegemman; the fourth is Llanussyllld; the fifth Llandeilaw; the sixth Llandyflydog; and the seventh, Llangenau. Llangenau and Llanussyllld are exempt from mortuaries, as they have no church lands belonging to them.

“Llandegemman is the name of a farm in Saint Michael Cwmdy, in the hundred of Crickhowell, formerly Ystradyw; and though there is now no appearance of a religious house or monastery there, this may be easily accounted for, when we hear that the revenues attached to it were so small as not to be sufficient for its repairs. Llangenau now spelt Llangeney, is a parish in the same hundred, near the eastern boundary of this county, and adjoining to Monmouthshire; no other place called Llandegemman is known in South Wales, and it is certain that there is no other parish called Llangenau, either in Demetia or Siluria. Add to this, that the dialect of Breconshire and Carmarthenshire is nearly similar, while that of Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire is very different from that of the two first counties.

“From the quotation just made by Hywel Dda, as well as from his conduct towards Morgan hên, or the old, who was king or prince of Glamorgan at the same time that Hywel governed Dyfed as well as Gwynedd, it seems clear that the latter potentate considered Ystradyw as part of his dominions; and he and his successors always possessed it, until it was taken from them by the Norman invaders on the conquest of Brecon, and though his evidence cannot be said to be perfectly disinterested, he must be allowed to have had more and better information upon the subject than we can now possess. We find him publicly asserting his right in his book of laws, compiled by the wisest men of his day, *among whom was the archdeacon of Llandaff*, and we know he enjoyed the whole of Breconshire as part of Dyfed, without interruption, unless the entry in the *Liber Landavensis* is entitled to implicit credit; but before that is admitted, it must be examined and considered, and we shall then perhaps discover that it is impossible it can be correct. Cradoc of Llancarvan, though a Glamorganshire man and a monk, certainly paid no attention to it, although he, as well as his translator Powel, must have seen it: the public, however, shall hear the story, and those who feel themselves interested in the question, may decide upon it.

## CANTREDS IN THE LORDSHIP AND BISHOPRIC OF MORGANWG.

“<sup>2</sup>Be it known to all the people of Britain, that there are seven cantreds (or hundreds) in the lordship and bishopric of Morganwg; the first is Cantreff Bychan; the second, Gower and Cydweli; the third, Gorwenit; the fourth, Cantreff Penuchen; the fifth, Gwentllwg and Edeligion; the sixth, Gwent is coed; and the seventh, Gwent uch coed. Ystradyw and Ewyas are called the two sleeves of Gwent uwch coed. When Edgar was king in England, and Hywel Dda, the son of Cadell, was prince of South Wales, which was one of the three kingdoms into which that country was divided, Morgan hên reigned in peace over all Morganwg, until Hywel Dda endeavoured to deprive him of Ystradyw and Ewyas.

“When Edgar heard this, he sent to Hywel Dda and Morgan hên, and Owen his son, and desired them to come to his court at London, and he heard the story, and the dispute which was between them; whereupon it was determined by the lawful judgment of his court, that Hywel Dda had wrongfully dispossessed Morgan hên and Owen his son, and therefore it was adjudged that Hywel Dda should give up Ystradyw and Ewyas for ever. Afterwards king Edgar *granted and gave* to Owen the son of Morgan hên, Ystradyw and Ewyas, within the *bishopric* of Llandaff; and confirmed them to him and his heirs by instruments in writing, attested by all the archbishops, bishops, earls and barons of England and Wales; a curse was denounced upon any one who should attempt to deprive

<sup>1</sup> Lib. 2. cap. 9. published by Wootton, London, 1730.

<sup>2</sup> Myfyrian Archæology, vol. 2. p. 612. London, 1801.



the *parish* of Teilaw of these lands, and a blessing invoked on all those who should thereafter contribute to preserve them to the lawful owner. Thus did Edgar, and the record of the proceedings is kept in the chapter house of Llandaff.<sup>1</sup>

“Not a tittle do we hear of this *now* famous award, made in the presence of all the archbishops, bishops, earls and barons of England and Wales, in the English, any more than in the Welsh histories, and unluckily for the credit of the Cwtta Cyfarwydd, there is a small anachronism, which will perhaps consign it to ‘the family vault of all the Capulets.’ Hywel Dda died A.D. 958, and Edgar did not begin his reign until 959, so that the truth probably was, that an old dispute between the bishops of Llandaff and Saint David’s was revived some time in the tenth century, and the monk who related it, not satisfied with asserting the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the see of Llandaff over Ystradyw and Ewyas, called in the help of Edgar, and proceeded to maintain the temporal power of his prince, in order to secure more effectually his support when it should be wanted.

“We will only add a few words more and then proceed to take a hasty tour round the county of Brecon, and mark its boundary, as it is now known. A Latin MS. in the Cottonian library, (Domitian A, i. Fo. 13. 157.) is styled Cognacio Brychan unde Brechenawe dicta est, *Pars Demetiae*. This writing, which appears from the spelling, as well as some other circumstances, to be as old as the reign of Hywel Dda, if not older, is an additional proof that we have been wrongfully classed among the Silures, and that anciently we were considered to be in the same province with Pembrokeshire, Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire; and to which, with Baxter, we think Radnorshire, or at least the greatest part of it, ought to be added.”

#### BOUNDARIES IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

Brecknock is bounded on the East by Monmouth and Hereford; on the North-East and North by Radnor; on the North-West by Cardigan; on the West by Carmarthen: on the south by Glamorgan and Monmouth. Since the beginning of the 19th century an ever-improving series of Ordnance maps have been published, on which are carefully laid down the boundaries of counties. It is therefore scarcely necessary now to follow Theophilus Jones in his beautiful walk over mountains and by rivers to trace the present boundaries of the county. Yet it should be noted that certain alterations have taken place. At the date of his writing, the hamlet of Glasbury, south of Wye, was in the county of Radnor; it has since been placed in Brecknockshire, and was in 1884 by an Order in Council amalgamated with Tregoyd and Velindre. Therefore the centre of the Wye is now the north-east boundary of Brecknock from Hay to its junction with the river Elan. Note also in passing that the Parish of Llandefalle reaches Wye at Tre-ricket between Llyswen and Crickadarn: it is omitted from the list by Jones. The Elan, from the point where it joins the Wye to that where the Clairwen joins, afterwards the Clairwen, until its junction with the Brwyno, “the rushy brook,” and from that spot the Brwyno form the northern boundary of Brecknock. On these brooks there have been constructed lakes to supply Birmingham with fresh water; the boundary therefore will be in future years an imaginary line, drawn across the sea of waters, representing the original course of the boundary brooks. On the southern boundary, while the geographical and Parliamentary county is still as described by Jones, an administrative county has been formed of slightly differing area. After the passing of the Public Health Act of 1874, the southern portions of the parishes of Llangynidr and Llangattock were constituted part of the Local Board Districts of Rhymney, Tredegar, and Ebbw Vale. By the Local Government Act of 1888, the whole of an Urban District is placed within that county where the majority of its inhabitants reside; these portions of the two parishes, therefore, passed into the administrative county of Monmouth, the boundary being marked with stones across the mountain. Similarly a small portion of the parish of Aberystroth, formerly in the county of Monmouth, was placed in the Urban District of Brynmawr; it passed into the administrative county of Brecknock under the Act of 1888. These places have since, under the subsequent legislation of 1894, been elevated into separate parishes under the names of Llechrhyd, Dukes Town, and Rassa, formerly in the parish of Llangynidr, and Beaufort, formerly in the parish of Llangattock, all of which now form part of Urban Districts within the administrative county of Monmouth, and Aberystroth, Brynmawr-Urban, formerly in the county of Monmouth but now included within the administrative county of Brecknock.

<sup>1</sup> This is a translation of a copy of the *Liber Landavensis*; This document is called Cwtta Cyfarwydd Forganwg, a brief statement of the rights of Morganwg. Edgar gave the lands in dispute to the *bishoprick* of Llandaff; the word in the British, is the *parish* of Llandaff. In the early ages of Christianity, what we now call the cathedral, was the only church in the diocese. *Kennet's case of impropriations*. After all it is extremely uncertain how far this claim of the princes of Gwent extended.

Ystradyw is now supposed to comprise the hundred of Crickhowell only; but the word imports the vale of Usk, or the vale of water. This squabble may therefore have related only to the lands about Abergavenny, where the reguli of Breconshire having unjustifiably pushed their boundaries too far Eastward, prevented the communication of the Gwentians with Ewyas and Erging, in Herefordshire.



## BOUNDARIES IN THEO. JONES' TIME.

And now let us give the ancient Boundaries as described by Theophilus Jones. He says:—“ Breconshire is bounded on the East by Monmouthshire and Herefordshire; on the North, by Radnorshire; on the North West, by Cardiganshire, on the West by Carmarthenshire and on the South by Glamorganshire and part of Monmouthshire. To describe its boundary, I begin Eastward, where a small brook called Baiden falls into the Usk on the South side of the river; follow the same downwards in the middle of the river, until the conflux of another brook on the North, called Gwenffrwd: up this rivulet, proceeding North or North East, having Llanwenarth in Monmouthshire on the right, and Llangenny in Breconshire on the left. Cross the turnpike road from Abergavenny to Brecon, where there is a shire stone placed between Sunny Bank and a farm house, called from its situation, Cydiad y ddwy shire, or the boundary of the two counties, up to the source of the Gwenffrwd, on the North side of the Sugar Loaf hill. From thence, crossing the mountain in a direction rather more to the East, but leaving the high summit to the right, we come to a brook called Cwmbwch or Nant y ffin; pursue the course of this brook downwards to its fall into the Grwyne fawr; up the middle of that river, Llanbedr in Breconshire, on the left, and Llanwenarth and afterwards Llandilo-Pertholeu, in Monmouthshire, on the right, until we come to a bridge leading from Llanvihangel Cilcornel to Crickhowell, called the Coal-pit road: proceeding still Northward up along Grwyne fawr; Partrishaw, Breconshire, on the left, Llandilo-Pertholeu, Monmouthshire, on the right, we come to a small brook, called Nantddu, which falls on the Monmouthshire side into the Grwyne, near a blacksmith's shop, where the insulated hamlet of Ffwddog, in Cwmyoy,<sup>1</sup> Herefordshire, is on the right. Here recross the Grwyne to half the river; proceed upwards in the same direction Northwards to a bridge, called Pont-yscub, (correctly Pont-Escob), or the bishop's bridge, upon the road leading from Patrishaw to Cwmyoy: Patrishaw, on the left, Cwmyoy, Herefordshire, on the right. Still along the Grwyne upwards when a brook called Nant y ffin falls in on the West, which brook divides Patrishaw from the hamlet of Grwyne fawr in Talgarth, and the hundred of Crickhowell from the hundred of Talgarth in Breconshire. After which, Sychnant, Brwynant, Cwmdoinant, and Cwmnant y bedd brooks fall in upon the Western or Breconshire side: cross Grwyne fawr where Cwmnant Trethin falls in on the East; proceed up this brook in a direction Eastward, having Talgarth, Breconshire, on the North, and Cwmyoy, Monmouthshire, on the South: pass over a hill called the Van, turning towards the North to a river called Honddu, where we have Cwmyoy, Monmouthshire, again on the right: along the Honddu to Cappel y ffin, from thence to a cottage near the confluence of two brooks; one rising on the Western or Breconshire side, and the other on the Eastern: follow the latter up to the Hatterell hills, to a spot where a third prill rises, which falls into the Olchon, in the parish of Clodock, until the source of this third prill, where, however, there is no boundary, mere stone, or mark; Cwmyoy in Monmouthshire, afterwards Clodock, Herefordshire, on the right, and Llanigon, Breconshire, on the left: proceed from this spot Northward, along the brow or summit of the hill on the Herefordshire side, to a place called Rhyw'r Daran, where there is a mere stone called Carreg Lwyd, being the boundary between Llanigon and Hay, Breconshire, on the right, the latter of which parishes continues along the boundary on that side, 'till the Dulas empties itself into the Wye; excepting only a mill, and two meadows, insulated within the Hay parish, called Llangwaithan mill and meadows, but which are part of Llanigon.

“ From Carreg Lwyd we proceed down the hill in a North Easterly direction to a cottage, called Syke's cottage, where another prill rises and divides Clodock and Cusop parishes in Herefordshire; the latter of which follows the boundary on the Herefordshire side to the Wye. Along the prill above mentioned, called Creigieu brook, we come to its fall into the Dulas; the boundary to its conflux into the Wye, near Hay: here turn, and proceed Westward up the middle of the latter river, which is the boundary between Radnorshire on the North and Breconshire on the South, for three or four miles: Clyrow and Llowes parishes on the right, upon the left Hay: about a few hundred yards above or South Westward of Llowes church, Radnorshire, cross the Wye and the turnpike road leading from Brecon to Hay, between two farms, called Fford fawr and Llwyne bach, but nearer to the latter: from thence we proceed about half a mile from the river Wye, in a Southerly direction: then turn, and proceed for the like distance from East to West; turn almost angularly from South to North, proceed in that direction by Glazbury churchyard, leaving this church a few yards, and that part of the parish which is in Radnorshire all the way to the left. Recross the turnpike road to Brecon, and through the great meadows, called the Stonces, into the middle of the river Wye, which now becomes the boundary between Breconshire and Radnorshire, until the conflux or fall of the Elan, about two miles below Rhayader.

<sup>1</sup> All the maps of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire, hitherto published, have erroneously placed the Ffwddog, as surrounded by Breconshire, instead of Monmouthshire.



“ From the place where the boundary line returns to the Wye, near Glazbury, we have the hamlet of Pipton, then the parishes of Llyswen, Crickadarn, Gwenddwr (on the Western boundary or confines of which last parish, we quit the hundred of Talgarth, and enter the hundred of Builth), Alltmawr, Llandewi'r cwm, Llanfair in Builth, Llanfihangel-bryn-pabuan, Llys dinam, and Llanwrthwl, in Breconshire, on the left or South, and on the other, or Northern side, Glazbury, Boughrwd, Llandilo-graban, Aberedw, Llanfareth, Llanelwedd, Dissert, Llanyre, and Llanfihangel-helygen, in Radnorshire.

“ From the fall of the Elan into the Wye, we quit the latter river and proceed up the middle of the former, in a direction nearly from East to West, 'till it receives the Claerwen: up this river turning a little towards the South, 'till the Brwyno falls in, running nearly from North to South. Follow this river to its source, near which it receives a supply from the lake of Llyngynnon, in Cardiganshire: Llanddewi brevi, in that county, all this while on the right, and Llandewi abergwessin, in Breconshire, on the left. From the source of the Brwyno, proceed from North West to South East, for about three miles along a wet bog (where the boundary line is not precisely ascertained) to the Tawe, not far from its source, follow this river down 'till it runs opposite to and near Ystrad y ffin. From the Tawe, near Ystrad y ffin, we come to the top of Hirgwm; here we have Llanfair ar y brin, Caermarthenshire, on the right, and Llanwrtyd, Breconshire, on the left. Down Hirgwm proceeding South East, to a common called Llwydlo fach, in the same direction to Cwmerychan; thence to the source of the river Gwenol, which follow to its fall into the Gwydderig. Up this river, turning from West to South East, until we come opposite to a brook running into it, on the Southern side, about four miles and a half from Treacastle, in Breconshire, called Nant y meirch; which trace upward from North to South West. Turn near a white stone to the Westward, leaving this stone in Caermarthenshire; cross the old turnpike road over Treacastle mountain to Llandovery, to Cors Pendaulwyn; then to a brook, called Henwen; down the same in a course nearly from West to East, 'till it falls into the Usk. Up the Usk turning from North to South East, to its source between the two Vans or Bannau; thence South South East to the river Twrch, which follow in nearly the same direction 'till it empties itself into the Tawe.

“ From Llwydlo fach to Gwydderrig, we have Tyr yr abad, or Llandulas, in the hundred of Builth, and afterwards Llandilo'r fân, in the hundred of Merthyr in Breconshire, on the left, and Llanfair ar y brin, Caermarthenshire, on the right. From the fall of Nant y meirch into the Gwydderig, we have the parish of Llywel in the hundred of Devynnock, in Breconshire, on the left, and Myddfai and Llanddoisant parishes, in Caermarthenshire, on the right, and from the spot where we reach the Tawe downwards to its fall, the parish of Llanguke or Llanguk, Glamorganshire, adjoins on the right, and Ystradgynlais, Breconshire, on the left. Upon coming to the Tawe, we proceed upward along the middle of the river from West to East, to Abercynlais: then cross a common called Cefn y bryn, Southwards to Nant y quarrel; then to Bryn y rhedin, near Goitre Genfford y Drain, and so to a brook called Nant y Pebyll Bedw: thence to the river Dulas, along which to Corslwyn du; from thence to the river Pyrddin, which follow in a direction from West to East to its fall into the Neath, which unites itself with the Mellte at Pontneathfechan. From the fall of the Twrch into the Tawe, to the meeting of the streams of the Neath, and the Mellte, we have Llanguke and Cadox-tone parishes, Glamorganshire, on the right, and Ystradvellte, Breconshire, on the left. From Pontneathfechan a few yards below the bridge, we proceed up the Mellte, having the hamlet of Rhygoes, in the parish of Ystradyvodog, Glamorganshire, on the right, and Ystradvellte, on the left, until we come to Dinas rock, in Penderin, in Breconshire; here we cross the Mellte, and proceed from North to South up a brook, called Sychryd: then cross the Cynon river, a little above Hirwain furnace; Penderin, on the left, and Aberdare parish, in Glamorganshire, on the right; down the Cynog, 'till a brook called Nant hir falls into it on the North or North Eastern side; which trace upwards, proceeding from South West to North East, 'till we come to another brook, called Pistill Nant y derin: then to a brook, called Nant y ffrwd, which follow to its fall in the Taaf fawr, a little above Coed y cymer. Follow the Taaf downwards, 'till it receives Taaf fechan on the North: here cross the former river where we have Vainor, in the hundred of Penkelley, in Breconshire, on the left, and on the right, Merthyr Tidvil, Glamorganshire. At the fall of the Taaf fechan, or lesser Taaf, turn from South to North, and proceed up this river to three stones in the river, called Yr hen steppau, about 300 yards below Pontsticill: here cross the river, and from thence we come in a direction from East to West to Bwlch issa, then to Castell y nos, then to Pwll morlais, thence to Pwll llwch mere, thence to Carn y clyn dwr, thence to Carn helig, and from thence to Rhyd y milwyr. From Taaf fechan, we have Llanddetty, Breconshire, on the left and Merthyr Tidvil, and Gellygare, Glamorganshire, on the right.

“ At Rhyd y Milwyr, or the soldiers' ford, upon the brook called Nant y milwyr, the lordship and hundred of Penkelly, and of Tretower, in the hundred of Crickhowel, in Breconshire, and the



lordship of Sanghenydd, in Glamorganshire meet near the source of the Romney or Rhymny; which river follow downwards nearly from West to East, for 568 perches, where the counties of Brecon and Monmouth unite, at the fall of a brook called Nantmelin into the Rhymny; near this spot (in Breconshire) iron works have been lately erected: Nantmelin divides Llangynider, in Breconshire, from Bedwellte, in Monmouthshire: proceeding up this brook North East for 144 perches, we cross over it, and continue our course North Eastward for two hundred perches more; having the lordship of Coed meredith, on the right hand, until we come to the source of a brook, called Nant y bwch; down this brook, 'till it falls into the Sorwy or Sirhowy, where we have Llangunider, in Breconshire, on the left, and Bedwellte still on the right. From Sirhowy, proceed Eastward to the river Ebwy fawr, which cross by a cottage called John Goodluck's: here we have a very small spot of ground on the South or South Eastern side, in Breconshire. Then down the middle of the river Ebwy fawr to Blân Ebwy, where we have Beaufort iron works close upon the boundary line, on the left in Breconshire: from thence, follow the stream quite round the works; then proceed to Gwar y Cae coal works; then to the outside of Wain dew, where we have Aberystroth, Monmouthshire, on the right; and Llangattock, on the left: from thence to Carreg y ffin, to Carreg Wain y Bwlch, to Carreg croes blân y Llamarch, to Pound y Wain wen, to Carreg cefn carn yr erw, to Blân Dâr fawr, to Carreg Maên y Tarw, to Carreg clawdd y mwyn, to Carreg Pen Garn lwyd, to Carreg Pen rhyw winau, to a mountain ash, to Bedd y gwr hir, to Pwll Carreg and from thence down the brook Baiden to its fall into the Usk, where this tour commenced; having Llanelly, Breconshire, on the left, and Llanwenarth, Monmouthshire, on the right.<sup>1</sup>

“Within this circle, (for such it nearly is, except on the north Eastern and South Western boundary, which is elongated and protrudes about four or five miles at each point) are contained 800 square miles, or 512,000 acres of land; and 300 acres of water, besides the space occupied by rivers and brooks.<sup>2</sup> This county is a radius of thirty miles; in the center of which, as nearly as art or design could place it (though it may be doubted whether it is to be attributed to either), is situated the town of Brecknock; from whence the traveller, proceeding along either of the four main roads, intersecting the county, and leading to Monmouthshire, Carmarthenshire, Radnorshire or Herefordshire, finds himself on the confines of the county of Brecon at the end of fifteen miles, and the same thing may be said, as to the distance from Brecon towards Merthyr Tidvil, in Glamorganshire, on the South, although the present road has rather increased it, by taking a circuitous sweep to avoid the inequalities and other natural difficulties of the old one.”

#### AREA AND POPULATION AS DESCRIBED IN 1891.

The area of the ancient county of Brecknock was 475,224 acres, that of the newly formed administrative county (certain Urban districts having under recent legislation passed into Monmouth) is 469,894 acres. The uninclosed land in the county is 115,106 acres, or nearly a quarter of the whole.

A return of the population of the county of Brecknock in 1673, “as appears from a return made by the Churchwardens to the Archbishop of Canterbury,” gives the total at 13,311, of which Papists 156 and Dissenters 682. Several parishes were entirely omitted: these having been added give a total of 13,496. This return must, however, be discarded as absolutely incorrect. The religious statistics, if true, would be a curious contribution to Church history, for “Papists and Dissenters” would perhaps not have selected Churchwardens to give a favourable estimate of their numbers. From 1792 to 1801 the baptisms were transcribed by Theophilus Jones from the registers: in 1792 the number of persons born was 771; in 1801 it had sunk to 643. Assuming the number of births to be the same per thousand, as later experience has shown, this gives a population approaching 28,000—such an increase, from 13,311 in 28 years, is quite impossible. Amongst the country people an idea holds that the population in ancient days was larger than at the present time; there does not appear the slightest reason for such a supposition. The few ruins of cottages in agricultural parishes, which may have given rise to the idea, being easily accounted for by the desertion of old houses as new and better ones were built: in any case they are not sufficient to affect materially the general result.

<sup>1</sup> These are the boundaries of the county of Brecon in 1800; but there are strong reasons for supposing that in very early ages, and particularly in the time of Brychan Brycheiniog (who will soon be introduced to the reader), Garthmadryn, or the possessions over which this prince ruled, were of considerably greater extent to the Westward. At Duffryn Cydrych, in the parish of Llanddoisant, in Carmarthenshire, were formerly considerable ruins and excavations, called Llys Brychan, or the court of Brychan, where this regulus probably resided occasionally: and if so, we conceive his territory comprehended the whole of the country on the East side of the Towy, as far down as Llandilo

fawr, from whence the boundary line crossed Southward to Llandebie, and followed the Loughor to its fall into the sea. This will account for the claim and possession of Gower, by the descendants of Bernard Newmarch, who supposed they had a right to all the lands of which they had robbed Bleddin ap Maenarch.

<sup>2</sup> Clarke's General View of the Agriculture of the county of Brecon; published by the Board of Agriculture in 1794. 831 square miles, or 467 according to Smith's maps. See Gent. Mag. for July, 1804.



In country parishes, purely agricultural, the accurate decennial census from 1801 to 1891 show that the population has decreased, or at best remained stationary. The people have shared the tendency observed throughout England and Wales to leave the country and flock into the towns. The corollary of this proposition is that towns have steadily increased their number. Brecon, with a population in 1801 of 2,700, has in 1891 over 6,000 inhabitants. Builth from 347 has increased to 1,414, to which must be added nearly 200 due to the building of Oaklands, a small suburb in the parish of Llandewi cwm. Hay has grown from a population of 1,170 to 2,154. Talgarth and Devynock have increased, though to lesser amount; Llanwrtyd has felt the value of a railway, and has sprung from 457 to 847. Crickhowell, the only town still without railway communication, but within the influence of the iron district, increased from 566 in the year 1801 to 1,561 in 1861, receding since that to 1,246 in 1891 in sympathy with depression in the neighbouring mineral industry. Lastly Brynmawr, now the most populous town in the county, came into existence in answer to the demand for labour at the works at Nantyglo. Since the cessation of manufacture at Nantyglo, Brynmawr has been saved from extinction by the railways, which enable the inhabitants to seek their living at Ebbw Vale and other centres of industry. This town is still an increasing place.

The most remarkable increase has been in parishes formerly agricultural, since worked for coal or iron. Llanelly in 1673 is credited with 86 persons; in 1800 it had increased to 937; in 1861 to 9,600; and even now, after the failure of the Clydach works, there is still a population of nearly 7,000 persons. Llangattock increased from 1,000 in the year 1801 to over 5,700 in 1861, since which time it has somewhat fallen back. Llangynidr has had a continuous increase from 775 in 1801 to 3,625 in 1881; Penderyn has grown from 1,000 to 2,800; and the lower part of Ystradgunlais from 709 to 3,600. The general effect on the county has been as follows: In 1801 the population was 32,325. The making of the railways of England between 1840 and 1860 made also the fortune of Brecknock. The population nearly doubled in 50 years, the culminating point being reached in 1861 when Brecknock showed a population of 61,627; since that time it has again dropped to 57,031.

The whole of the above remarks apply to the ancient, geographical, and parliamentary county. When in 1888 the Local Government Act formed "administrative counties," an urban district partly in one county and partly in another was placed in the county where a majority of its population resided. The Urban Districts of Brynmawr with part of Aberystwith; of Beaufort, Rassa, and Llechryd, had become portions of Urban Districts: Brynmawr being within the county of Brecon for Parliamentary and administrative purposes; and Aberystwith in Brecon for administrative and Monmouth for Parliamentary purposes. While the other places mentioned, Beaufort, Rassa, Dukestown, and Llechryd are in Monmouth for administration; in Brecknock for Parliamentary representation; in Monmouth for sanitation; in Brecknock for Poor Law; in Brecknock for Elementary and in Monmouth for Secondary Education—a complicated arrangement which can scarcely continue. Out of modern legislation has thus come the Administrative County of Brecknockshire, with a population in 1891 of 51,393, which will probably be the initial figure with which future calculations will be compared.

#### POPULATION AND AREA IN 1800.

And here let us add Theophilus Jones' remarks on this subject. He says:—"The population of this county, from the returns made to Parliament in 1802, may be estimated at 32,300. From these documents, it appears that the inhabitants then consisted of 31,633; but the regular and supplementary militia, amounting to 500 men, being then out of the county, and those in the army and navy not being included, they may be fairly said to exceed 32,000. This population has varied of course here, as it has in all other counties, at different periods. At the beginning of the 17th century, when there was a considerable manufacture in woollen cloths in Brecon, and the neighbourhood, there are reasons to believe, that the inhabitants were much more numerous than after the restoration. In 1673, returns were made, in obedience to a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury, by which we find that the population of Breconshire then amounted to about 14,000. Since that time, we see they have increased to more than double the number. Both the tables (that formed from the returns in 1673, and that from those of 1802), may be confided in and are as nearly correct as the course of human affairs will permit: for it is impossible to be precisely accurate on this subject. But the calculations from the parish registers, which was the mode resorted to, prior to the passing of the act of 41 George 3d, directing those returns to be made, were extremely fallacious. I have taken the trouble of minuting down the aggregate number of births and burials, from the transcripts of the registers of this county returned into my office for the last 100 years; little information is to be derived from them in this respect. It should seem that the population in this county was decreasing in the years 1800 and 1801. Those years were certainly sickly, the seasons unhealthy, and the bread then eaten extremely bad, which, of course, occasioned disorders, and an extraordinary mortality: but I doubt very much whether it can be safely inferred from thence, that the number of births



during those periods was not equal to many of the preceding years. The increase in the sect of anabaptists accounts in some measure for the deficiency apparent in the registers, and there are many other causes to which it may be attributed too tedious to be here discussed, though they may form a subject of inquiry hereafter."

#### THE RIVERS OF THE COUNTY.

The principal rivers of Brecknock are the Usk and the Wye. These alone will be described in this chapter, leaving their tributaries and the smaller streams, Towe, Hepste, Mellte, Taff, and others until their several localities are reached. The Usk rises among the mountains on the Western border of the county, and, after flowing northwards for three miles, bends sharply to the East past Brecon and Crickhowell, a course of 34 miles through the centre of the county, and so on through the county of Monmouth until it reaches the Severn Estuary at Newport. Immediately above Brecon, it feeds the Brecon and Newport Canal. The Usk is justly celebrated for its fishing, both of trout and salmon. Eels, too, give excellent sport to the rising generation; who pursue them diligently with a steel fork as spear in low water, and in flood time in summer with a clot of worms. By this latter method a hundred or more may be caught in an afternoon. These generally run small, eight or ten to the pound, though a monster of a pound and a half in weight has been occasionally jerked to grass. By more ambitious methods eels of three and four pounds weight have been captured. The small river lamprens and the larger lamprey are sometimes taken. Sewin are not often found. The trout of the Usk are numerous and when in prime condition most excellent eating; they are smaller than in some English rivers. A basket where the fish are like brothers, each of the family weighing half a pound, forty in number, weighing in all twenty pounds, will send the angler home tired but happy. The largest trout taken in Glanusk waters weighed 3lb. 12oz. The season commences on February 15th and ends October 2nd. The best months are March and April.

#### THE USK AS A SALMON RIVER.

As a salmon river, owing to its short length, the small number of nets at its mouth, the entire absence of inland nets, the removal of every obstruction, and an excellent system of preservation, the Usk has been greatly improved. A weir at Trostre at one time prevented the fish ascending; it was first taken by some patriotic gentleman, and finally bought by public subscription and destroyed. The Usk is largely dependent upon floods: a wet year will be a good fishing season, a dry year a bad one. Thus in 1891 the rods captured 4,931 salmon weighing an average of about 10lbs. each fish; in 1898 only 518 were taken, their average weight 12lbs. Over series of years the average weight is 10lbs. Mr Robert Crawshay, some years back, landed one of 44lbs. weight, and fish of 20lbs. to 30lbs. are not very uncommon. In 1891, the take of salmon by rods in Buckland water was 650 fish, Mr Alfred Crawshay taking with his one rod three hundred and twenty-four fish, weighing 3,513lbs.; in spite of a month's absence in Scotland from September 25th till October 26th. This is perhaps as good sport as has been recorded in the waters of Britain.

The Wye rises in Plinlimmon and flowing past Rhayader, becomes, after its junction with the Elan, the north east boundary of the county, dividing Brecknock from Radnor. As it flows by Brecknock its waters are augmented from the north by the Ithon, the Eddw, and other smaller streams. On the Brecknock side it receives, a mile and a half below Rhayader, the Elan; which with its tributary, the Clairwen, have been formed into great lakes to supply Birmingham with water. The next important tributary, the Yrvon, enters Wye half a mile or so above Builth. The Yrvon itself receives from the north several not inconsiderable brooks, the Gwessin, the Cerdin, the Camddwr, the Cammards, the Dulas, and the Chwefru, while from the south shorter streams reach it from the almost precipitous slopes of the Eppynt hills.

It was in contemplation in 1898 to form in the vale of Yrvon a lake 9 miles in length to supply the metropolis with water. After its reception of the Yrvon, the Wye flows past the town of Builth, a mile eastward of which it is joined by the Dihonow, whose head waters furnish by gravitation the water supply of Builth. Several smaller streams are passed before we arrive at the Llynfi, a stream flowing through Llangorse Lake, by means of which in the future the waters of the Usk may also find their way to London. At Hay a brook named Dulas enters Wye, which from that point leaves our county, flowing through the counties of Hereford and Monmouth till it reaches the Severn Estuary at Chepstow. The county of Brecknock is thus the most important water collecting area in Britain, supplying not only local requirements, but the vast city of Birmingham, and probably in the future the still vaster and ever increasing population of London,

#### THE FISH OF THE WYE.

In the Wye are found salmon, trout, pike, and other fish. For the pleasure of salmon fishing, sportsmen from a distance fill the hotels and rents the houses near the river, for their own enjoyment



and to the benefit of local trade. Since 1861 the Legislature has passed several enactments for the improvement of the Salmon Fisheries. A Board of Conservators has been formed, to whose care the interests of the river as a whole have been confided. Water bailiffs patrol the banks to protect the spent fish returning to the sea; the capture of many young salmon, known as "pink," and by other names, has been forbidden. Certain modes of fishing, the spear, the gaff, and still more fatal lime, have been made illegal; the minimum mesh of nets has been fixed by law, and on annual close time established to ensure peace for the breeding fish; while a weekly close time, during which the nets may not fish, gives a chance for a certain amount of salmon to attain in safety the upper reaches of the river.

The life history of a Wye salmon may be thus described. In the autumn the salmon travel up the Wye and Usk for breeding purposes. Net fishery closes with the end of August; after which, even if the law permitted, few salmon are in condition fit for sale. The hen fish grows dark in colour, and it is full of spawn; the cock fish gradually becomes as hideous as can well be imagined—his colour a dirty red, blotched with orange and purple spots, and his head being large and body thin. The bulk of the fish deposit their spawn about Christmas, after which they return, as best they can, to the sea. In a very exhausted state they may be seen under bush or other sheltered place, while many die of disease or combat; at this time, if unprotected by law, the "spent" fish would fall an easy prey to spear or gaff. They gradually reach their great sanatorium the sea, hanging about the lower reaches of the rivers till the late spring. The eggs remain hidden in the gravel bed of the river for about 140 days; those that escape the ravages of water insects hatch out in May. On hatching they resemble tadpoles with a bag of nutriment attached, on which they subsist for two or three weeks, when they assume the form of fishes, and are known as "fry," or "salmon pink." The received opinion is that the salmon remains a full year in this stage, wearing a coat with finger marks on it, whence some have called him a "fingerling." He now, in the second April, assumes the silvery scales of the adult fish, wearing his new apparel over his old jacket; he is now called a "smolt," and with the first flood starts on his journey to the sea. In the salt water it is believed that the smolt grows very rapidly, entering the sea with a weight of five or six ounces and returning to his native river, in three months time, a "grilse," locally called a "botcher," of from 4lbs. to 7lbs. in weight. What natural instinct it is which induces the salmon to run up the rivers in spring and summer is unknown; some think they are prompted by desire to escape from marine enemies or parasitic insects.

Some few salmon run up the Wye in February, and in March there enter the river those which are locally known as "March gillins," a nice looking plump fish of from 8lbs. to 12lbs. in weight, but these are not in any quantities. In the Wye Estuary the salmon do not start to run in any numbers until the end of April; when fresh from the sea these are bright looking fish with a fair amount of large ones amongst them. If the river is in fair condition all these fish are constantly on the move towards the Upper Wye and its tributaries; if the water is unsuitable, they may be seen lying, moping about the pools in the middle parts of the river, quickly becoming discoloured and slimy. The grilse run in June; they are lively fish, and being smaller than the full grown salmon can ascend into the smaller streams where there would be no shelter for the larger fish. The largest fish recorded as taken in the Wye was captured by Messrs Miller in June, 1895, a male in prime condition, measuring 55 inches in length, with a girth of 28 inches; it weighed 63lbs. In 1898, the largest turned the scale at 51lbs.

#### THEOPHILUS JONES' DESCRIPTION OF THE RIVERS.

On the subject of the rivers and their fish, Theophilus Jones says:—"The principal rivers in this county are the Wye, the Usk, the Irvon and the Tawe. The Taaf also rises in this county, but it does not become considerable 'till it receives the lesser Taaf, and enters Glamorganshire. The Wye, with a trifling exception at Glazbury (as has been seen), washes the Northern boundary of this county, and divides it from Radnorshire for thirty-three or thirty-four miles in length, when it enters Herefordshire, near Hay, and afterwards falls into the Severn below Chepstow. In this river are found salmon, trout, graylings, pike, perch, last-springs samlet, or salmon pink, chub, dace, loach, gudgeons, eels, lampreys, roaches, bullheads, minnows, shad cray fish, and muscles. The salmon and the pike of this river are remarkably good. The trout are not in equal estimation amongst epicures: the flesh is white, and they have neither the firmness, colour, or flavour of those of the Usk. It is remarkable that the cray fish or fresh water lobster is found in many brooks running into the Wye; but seldom, if ever, in those which fall into the Usk or Irvon. Many unsuccessful attempts have been made to remove them into the rivers of Caermarthenshire and Glamorganshire and even into some brooks communicating with the Irvon, *which empties itself into the Wye*; but when thus conveyed, they soon disappear. They are not found dead, nor is the shell ever seen; they, consequently, either emigrate, or are destroyed and totally devoured by the indigenous inhabitants of the stream, to which they are



thus unnaturally introduced and who perhaps dislike the company of these intruders. The sewin, (a fish in high estimation in part of South Wales) is not found in any of the rivers of Breconshire, except the Tawe. And here another observation occurs, though perhaps it has seldom if ever been attended to. The sewin is not seen in any river running in this county from East to West, but in all those flowing in a contrary direction, as the Teivi, the Towey, in Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire, and the Neath, the Avon, the Ogmore and other rivers. I leave this circumstance to the natural philosopher to account for; the fact is, as I have stated.

“ In the Usk, the same fish are caught as in the Wye, except the pike, the grayling, the perch, the gudgeon, the cray fish and the muscle: but this river is celebrated principally for its trout, which certainly is equal in flavour to any in the kingdom; it is in season from the beginning of March to the middle of July, and if not destroyed by poachers, who take them at every period in the year, and of all sizes, and particularly with a kind of net called a perch net, which is suspended upon a long pole, by means of horn rings and is used in the night, they would form a much more abundant, and of course a cheaper article of food, for a fourth of the year: but the pernicious and infamous practice of throwing unslaked lime into brooks, where it is known they resort to deposit their spawn, destroys them by myriads and does more mischief than can be well calculated, at the same time that the fish thus killed are scarcely eatable.

## FISH AND THEIR PRESERVATION.

“ Geraldus Cambrensis, speaking of Breconshire, says,<sup>1</sup> *fluvialibus quoque Piscibus abundat quos hinc Osca inde Vaga ministrat; Salmonibus etiam et Trutis utraque,*<sup>2</sup> *sed plus illis Vaga plus istis Osca fecunda est.* In this, as in most other instances (when he has not a miracle in view) he is perfectly correct; how highly then are we indebted to Providence who has formed in our rivers these abundant store houses for our use! The benefits are obvious: but sufficient care is not taken to preserve and multiply the advantages which we might derive from so plenteous a source. We have seen and felt years of scarcity and are continually complaining of the high prices of provisions, at the same time that the ocean which surrounds our shores offers a never failing supply to our wants, and our rivers may considerably contribute to the same purpose; yet man, weak and erring man, either neglects to use or endeavours to intercept the bounties of his Creator and to prevent his fellow creatures from participating in the blessings he bestows upon them. Foreigners, either more necessitous or more attentive to their interest, are permitted to avail themselves of our indolence and to deprive us of those riches which industry might make our own, while our rivers are obstructed with weirs to prevent us from receiving a supply evidently intended for the general good of the inhabitants of those lands through which they flow, and this in order to produce or promote a monopoly.<sup>3</sup> The salmon are induced to ascend rivers for three purposes,<sup>4</sup> safety from the porpus and other marine adversaries, in search of food or to deposit their spawn; in the two first cases, the fish are in general active and healthy, and the flesh is, of course, firm and palatable, or (as it is called) in season. In this state, they frequently during floods in the spring and early part of the summer, travel to an amazing distance from the ocean in pursuit of their food, which is most abundant at this time of the year, consisting principally of the young of the trout and other fresh water fishes, as well as insects; if the salmon, however, are obstructed when they quit the sea from either of these first mentioned motives, a very small obstacle drives them back again, and they perhaps never return. I say return, because it is very well known that the same fish always frequent the same rivers, and even the young fry are partial to the stream which first conveyed them to the sea. This is one among many of the serious mischiefs occasioned by these weirs, independent of the opportunities they afford the proprietors of increasing the scarcity and raising the prices at their pleasure; but this is not the only mode which the selfishness of man has discovered to lessen the stores graciously sent him by the merciful Giver of all good things. The fish coming up to spawn are not deterred by ordinary difficulties, or prevented from their purposes by trifling impediments; it is indeed wonderful to relate or consider what obstacles they will surmount to accomplish the great end of nature, but when they have made their way against the swiftest currents and even successfully resisted the force of cataracts, they are still frequently unable to escape from man, their greatest and most indefatigable adversary. Upon their

<sup>1</sup> Itin. l. 1. cap. 2.

<sup>2</sup> “ And there is salmons in both,” says Fluellin. Was Shakespeare thinking of Ger. Cambrensis’s description of Breconshire, when he put this speech in the mouth of a character supposed to be of that county?

<sup>3</sup> We would not be understood here to quarrel with the rights of fishery in the possession of individuals which they are clearly and legally intitled to enjoy as freely and fully as any other species of property, but merely to submit it to the consideration of the legislature whether it would not be for the good of the

community, that all weirs should be abolished, and a satisfaction made to the proprietors by the inhabitants of the parishes in the neighbourhood through which the rivers run, empowering them, at the same time that the streams are free to all, under certain regulations, to punish those who may be detected in taking the fish with destructive nets or engines and at improper seasons.

<sup>4</sup> The fish are also infested with vermin at certain seasons, which it is said they get rid of upon coming into fresh water.



approaching the source of rivers where the stream is shallow or diminished, their pursuer watches them near a narrow gully, and either in the day time, or by burning a bundle of straw at night, by the light of which they are attracted, strikes them with a spear formed for this purpose and drags them from their element at a time when the flesh is nauseous, if not unwholesome; although the death of a single fish is frequently attended with the destruction of millions in embryo, who would otherwise have contributed to the *common stock* of the adjacent county. It is true, it may be said, that there are at present laws against their destruction in this manner and at this season of the year; but these laws are become a dead letter, the unthinking peasant laughs at those penalties which he knows will never be enforced, and while the law sleeps, claims a right to exercise that avocation which good sense and sound policy, as well as the ordinance of the legislature, prohibit. A few words more upon this subject and it is concluded; probably it will not be generally considered as of that serious import it deserves, but at a time when an additional number of mouths is introduced into the country and the neighbourhood,<sup>1</sup> few if any of whom raise the twentieth part of the fruits of the earth they consume, any hint tending to promote the increase of provisions is of consequence and ought to be attended to. In the county of Brecon may be found at least 1,000 acres of land which either are or may be covered with water at a trifling expence and which are unfit for the general purposes of agriculture; the number of brooks intersecting it in all directions and the quantity of water they convey is amply sufficient for forming a reservoir or pond in almost every farm within this district, which if stocked with fish would furnish a ready supply for the tables of private families or for sale in the public markets, and yet none of our farmers and few of our gentry seem to be fully sensible of these advantages. It is surely unnecessary to point them out or to observe at how cheap a rate they may be obtained and secured; they lack neither labour or manure and the husbandman derives from them a *never failing* annual crop without the trouble of sowing or the expence of seed. Surely then I may be permitted to recommend to my countrymen that they would avail themselves of those *capabilities* (not everywhere attainable) of adding to their stores and multiplying their resources, when this end can with so much facility be prompted and with so little difficulty be preserved.”<sup>2</sup>

#### THE MOUNTAIN RANGES.

The county is intersected by four ranges of mountains. (1) A range in the extreme north of the county running east and west, dividing the parish of Llanwrthwl from the Vale of the Yrvon. Amongst these mountains are found slate and lead, and on the north slopes are the mineral springs of Llanwrtyd and Llangammarch. Much of the north slope has been acquired by Birmingham. The highest point is Drygarn (Druids rock), 2,120 feet above the sea.

(2) The Epynt (ascent), a name familiar to English ears in Epping Forest. This line runs from Carmarthenshire across Brecknock from west to east, terminating in the Vale of Wye at Llyswen; to the north of this range lies the hundred of Builth and the Vale of Yrvon; to the south the great Central Valley of the Usk, the ancient Brecheiniog, from which the modern county takes its name. The top of the Epynt presents no notable peak to the eye; it is rather a plateau of great extent, having a sharp escarpment to the north; the southern slope more gradual forming a series of dingles each with its brook flowing to the fertile valley of the Usk.

(3) The third, or Beacon range, runs from the Carmarthen Beacon on the west through the entire length of the county in an easterly direction forming the southern wall of the great Usk Valley, dividing the agricultural old red sand stone from the iron and coal basin. On their south slope are the Brecknock parishes of Ystradgunlais, Ystradfellte, Penderyn, and Vaynor, heads of mineral valleys, the lower parts of which are in Glamorgan. Still on the southern slope, but further eastward, are the parishes of Llechrhyd, Dukestown, Rassa, and Beaufort, in the geographical county of Brecknock, but placed in 1888 within the administrative county of Monmouth; beyond them again is Brynmawr, in Brecknock, at the extreme south east, after which the range of mountains passes to the county of Monmouth. Towering amongst his gigantic neighbours rises the Brecknock Beacon, 2,900 feet in height, for sublime grandeur difficult to surpass. The great mass of mountain is old red sand stone. To the west the southern slope is carboniferous lime stone which crossing the hill on the Llangynidr side of the Dyffryn Cwannon dingle, forms that magnificent escarpment on the north side of the mountain which is so notable a feature in the Vale of Crickhowell.

(4) The fourth and last range, rising at Buckland, north of the Vale of the Usk, here only a mile in breadth, stretches over six miles northward, having on the west Lake Llangorse, and on the east the Valley of Cwmdru. Here, turning on the mountain Mynyddtroed as on a pivot, and sinking for a moment to the pass of Pen-y-cefn ffordd, only a thousand feet above the sea, the range continues

<sup>1</sup> In the Iron Manufactories.

<sup>2</sup> The Irvon has nearly the same fish as the Wye.



further ten miles to the north east, presenting a grand cliff from Talgarth to Hay, and throwing out to the south subsidiary ranges which enclose the Valleys of Cwmdu, Gwryne fechan, and Gwryne fawr, and others, which being in the counties of Monmouth and Hereford, are beyond the limits of the present volume.

## MOUNTAINS AS DESCRIBED BY JONES.

Theophilus Jones' description of the mountains is as follows:—"This county is intersected on the North and South by two long ranges of mountains, the one goes by the general name of Epynt, an obsolete word for hill, an ascent or slope: it begins on the West, on the confines of Carmarthenshire, terminates on the East at Llyswen in Breconshire and divides for the greatest part of the line the hundred of Builth from the remainder of the county. The district called Gwlâd Faullt or the country of Builth lies on the Northern side of Epynt; the upper or Western part anciently belonged to the princes of Dinas fawr, now Dinevor, and in 1164 was granted by Rhys ap Griffith to the abbey of Strata Florida or Ystradfflur in Cardiganshire, and the vale of Irvon as well as the Cwm or dingle through which the Wye runs, together with the lands bordering on the Wye, were at different times parcel of the possession of the princes of Fferreg,<sup>1</sup> Fferregs, or Fferlex, the princes of Powis and the lords of Elvel: it was not 'till long after the conquest by Bernard Newmarch that it was considered as part of Brecknockshire. Philip de Breos was the first lord of Brecknock who united this tract, which he acquired by conquest, to those dominions he possessed in right of his wife, yet it was afterwards frequently dissevered from them by the Mortimers, and sometimes it formed part of the lordship of Melenydd in Radnorshire: nature indeed seems to have placed a formidable barrier between it and the more Southern parts of the county, from which it differs materially in soil and considerably in climate. The soil of those parts adjoining Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire, consisting of what is commonly called mountain land, is mostly peat and full of bogs, while that of the vales is argillaceous and has some resemblance in colour to the bark of an ash, the remainder of Breconshire is reddish sand or sandy loam upon a substratum of gravel, and wants a due proportion of clay to render it sufficiently tenacious for the general purposes of vegetation; and the atmosphere of Builth,<sup>2</sup> which is much higher is of course colder than the greatest part of the hundreds of Talgarth, Merthyr, Penkelley and Crickhowel.

"The other range of mountains, dividing Glamorganshire and afterwards Monmouthshire from Breconshire, commences on the West with Bannau Shir-Gaer, or the Carmarthenshire beacons, from whence they run in a line nearly parallel with the Epynt hills, though inclining as they proceed more towards the South, and terminate in Monmouthshire; having the vale of Usk on the North. Along this bleak and otherwise barren tract of high ground runs a vein of limestone, the course of which is minutely and accurately described in a curious old MS. lately published in the second volume of the Cambrian Register, supposed to have been written by George Owen, esq.<sup>3</sup> The lime is first discovered in Pembrokeshire, it then crosses Carmarthenshire and enters Breconshire on the West at Twyn melyn, in the hamlet of Palleg, in the parish of Ystradgynlais, from thence it proceeds eastward to Cribarth, Penwyll or Pannau and to Carnau Gwynnion, in Ystradfellte, soon after which it trends to the South East with the mountains, leaves the Brecknock beacons to the North, is again seen in Glyn-collwm and Pen-rhiw-calch and afterwards in Llanddetty, Llangynidr, Llangattock and Llanelly, when it enters into Monmouthshire. Upon our approach to this latter county, we have in Brecknockshire the vein of coal which supplies us principally as well as part of Radnorshire with that article; to convey which, a canal has been lately cut to the town of Brecon, and in the neighbourhood of these collieries, iron works have been established and are continually increasing, but these subjects will be more properly treated upon when I come to the description of the places or parishes where they are situated.

## THE BLACK MOUNTAINS.

"Between the two ridges of mountains thus hastily travelled over, a third commences abruptly, at or near Talgarth, and is known in different places by the names of the Black mountains in Brecknockshire and the Hatterell hills, in Herefordshire. From these another line branches across in a direction from North to South about eight miles below Brecon, dividing the hundred of Crickhowell

<sup>1</sup> Rhosfferreg, now called Rhosferig, in Llanfihangel-brynpabuan, was one of the mansions of Elystan Glodrydd, prince of Fferreg, in 1010, and is now (1800) the property of one of his lineal descendants.

<sup>2</sup> The neighbourhood of the town of Builth must here be excepted, for near that place and from thence downward on the banks of the Wye, vegetation is as forward as in any part of the county.

<sup>3</sup> Lord of Kemeys in Pembrokeshire; he lived in the 17th century and left several MSS. behind him: after tracing the

vein of limestone from Pembrokeshire into Caermarthenshire and so into Breconshire, he brings it from Blancollwm to Llangrwyne, "where it crosses the Usk to Tavern Maeshir, further than which (says he) I have not learned the course of the said vayne." We were in hopes indeed we should have been able to have treated this subject more accurately as well as scientifically, but the gentleman to whom we were referred refused the requested information, not merely with abruptness, but rudeness, from an apprehension (we presume) that we were endeavouring to pilfer the secrets of his trade, in order to apply them to his prejudice.



from the hundreds of Talgarth and Penkelley. In that portion of the county lying Eastward of this hill, the air is perceptibly milder and vegetation more forward than on the Western side of the pass called Bwlch; it is however remarkable that though the quantity of rain falling in Brecon is nearly double that which falls in London in the same space of time, yet the atmosphere there is not much colder than that of the metropolis, though rather more variable. The great excess of rain observable on a comparison with a London meteorological journal may be easily accounted for, by the vicinity of Brecon to the Southern range of hills, and particularly to the Bannau Brecheiniog. The great height of the beacons frequently intercepts the clouds charged with watery particles in their passage from the South or South West, from whence the rainy wind generally blows; thus separated or dispersed they descend in rain, and it must be admitted that when these mountains are covered with snow, we occasionally feel—

The icy fang  
And churlish chiding of the winter's wind,  
Which bites and blows upon our bodies,  
Ev'n till we shrink with cold.

“But these inconveniences (if such they be) are amply compensated for by the advantages we derive from them: the rough blast that sweeps their tops brings with it ruddy health into our vallies and dissipates or drives before it those pestilential exhalations or fumes, which either nature or the works or wants of mankind produce to the prejudice of animal life; hence epidemic disorders are seldom known, and never so fatal here as in large towns in England, and to these hills we may in a great measure attribute our protection from accidents by lightening, which are rarely heard of in their vicinity. Imagination can scarcely paint objects more sublime and picturesque than the three lofty peaks of those nearly precipitous elevations, and continued as they are by a long range of mountains, which is terminated by the conical Sugar-loaf near Abergavenny, they form such an outline as can only be described by the pencil; the reader therefore is referred to the sketch at the bottom of the map of the county.

#### THE RAINFALL OF BRECKNOCK.

In considering the rainfall of Brecknock, the three years 1895, 1896, 1897, have been taken; these are the latest observations available at the time of writing. During those years, schemes to supply Birmingham and London with pure water from the mountains of Brecknock have excited intense interest, and the ranks of meteorologists, both professional and amateur, within the county, have been largely recruited. For the sake of comparison it may be stated that during the three years mentioned, gauges variously placed at Greenwich Observatory have shown readings varying from 13 inches to 22. The driest parts of England have an average rainfall of about 21 inches; 30 inches may be an average for England and the more important agricultural districts of Scotland. Brecknock, exposed to the damp south west winds of the Atlantic, and opposing to them lofty mountains reducing the temperature to the point of saturation, has as large a rainfall as any found south of the Cumberland Lake country. The gauge at Nant y Car, in the parish of Llanwrthwl, with a mountain altitude of over 1,500 feet, gave in 1897 a fall of 90 inches; further down the valley, at Nantgwilt, a point now submerged by the Birmingham reservoir, the gauge registered 66 inches. In the Yrvon Valley, soon perhaps to be acquired for London, the high valley of Abergwessin has a rainfall varying from 60 to 75 inches; at Builth, 500 feet lower, the fall is from 30 to 40 inches. In the south of the county, the gauge placed at Taff Vechan has registered the enormous total of over 101 inches, at an altitude of 2,100 feet. At Brecon, the fall has varied from 36 inches to 48 inches. At Crickhowell, the south side of the valley, influenced by the propinquity to the hills of Llangynidr, has a rainfall slightly higher than is found north of the Usk, the gauges registering 37 to 50 inches. The driest record in the county is at Gwernynyfed, near Hay, which is sheltered by mountains to the south, and where the rainfall has been as low as 26 inches, and has not exceeded 40. For good or for ill, the destinies of Brecknock must be largely influenced by its rainfall; to the mountains that cause it, to the rivers which are its result, we are indebted for the beauty of the scenery, for sheep pasturage, and for the sport of fishing. Yet it is a heritage which has attracted the cupidity of great cities, which covet the water for domestic and commercial purposes, until it seems likely that in the immediate future fair valleys will be submerged beneath deep lakes. With what effect upon the future of the county? Who can say!

#### READINGS OF INCHES OF RAIN WITH DECIMALS.

<i>Feet above Sea.</i>	<i>Name of Station.</i>	1895.	1896.	1897.
1545	Llanwrthwl-Nant y Car	65.15	78.85	90.45
1250	Clairwen	46.65	62.05	62.95
764	Nantgwilt	53.36	56.59	66.13
904	Yrvon-Abergwessin	60.35	65.23	73.08
430	Builth	31.03	30.87	40.20



<i>Feet above Sea.</i>	<i>Name of Station.</i>	1895.	1896.	1897
	<i>South of the County.</i>			
2099	Taff Vechan (No. 6)	88.65	74.54	101.54
860	Pentwyn Reservoir	60.89	55.05	75.87
447	Brecon Barracks	36.11	32.65	44.79
330	Crickhowell-Penmyarth	37.77	34.94	49.23
350	Gwernyfed—Hay	32.46	26.88	34.11
Diameter of all gauges, 5 inches, placed 1 foot above ground.				

## PLACE-NAMES OF BRECKNOCK.

Though archaeologists have here and there found what they deem to be indications of a previous race, the Celts are the earliest historical people of Wales. Starting, it is supposed, from the temperate regions of Central Asia, they have travelled across Europe, and are now to be found in the extreme West: in Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany. The only method of tracing their place of origin is in a comparity study of languages, from which a well known Welsh professor has shown what manner of men they were. They lived in houses with doors, were possessed of cattle, horses, sheep and dogs; they wore clothing of wool, from which is inferred their home was in a climate somewhat cold. Passing over the Continent, they have left behind them Celtic place-names, from which their journeying can be reconstructed. Here we are only concerned with the subject so far as it is illustrated by the place-names of the county of Brecknock.

The place names of Wales, a standing joke amongst those in whose ears they have an unaccustomed sound, are generally words of much beauty, never without signification, conveying with accuracy the position of the place indicated, or the natural character which prevailed when the name was given, preserving the memory of historical events which have passed from the written records of the nation; even, as has been above stated, enabling the student to dive into the dim recesses of the past and say, with an approach to certainty, of our primeval ancestors whence they came and what manner of men they were. Thus from a study of its names, we may view our own county again a land of moor and woodland untouched by the hand of man, replenish its valleys with wolf and deer, and connect our own people with their Eastern forefathers whose migrations it is beyond our purpose here to follow, but which may become clear to any enquirer who will note on the map of Europe names Celtic in origin, and possessing the same root as those which we find around us in Brecknock.

Before dealing with the names of our own county, a word as to Wales collectively may not be without interest. In nearly every country the people call themselves "the people"; strangers, not understanding this speech, give them some name by which the fact is emphasised. The Germany amongst themselves are "Deutsche" the people; to the French they are "Alle Manni," other men. To the Greeks the tongue of foreigners sounded an inarticulate "Ba Ba," so they termed them barbaroi. The Welsh call themselves "Cwmri," the compatriots, while the Teutons, to whose each the foreign tongue sounded an inarticulate Wa-Wa, styled the land Wales a foreign place. Conveying the same idea are other words. Wal-nut, the foreign nut, the German word waller to wander, from which wallet, the sack of the wandering pilgrim. The name can be traced round the whole circuit of Teutonic occupancy. Walschland is their name for Italy; the Germans of Berne call their Southern neighbour Canton Wallis. Nearer home is Corn-wall, the last syllable of which was originally Wales.

The Teutonic W and the Celtic G being convertible letters, we get by mutation of the first letter the root "Gal," our Prince of Wales becoming in France Le Prince de Galles. The same rule being applied to the name of Wales, it becomes connected with Gaul, with Cal-Edoreia, Gal-way and Galla-way; possibly with Ar-gyle, with Donegal, and with Portu-gal.

## RIVER NAMES, LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Of special value in the investigation of primeval history are river names. Over the greater part of Europe we find villages with appellations of later date standing by streams still bearing Celtic names. Throughout England there is scarcely a river name that is not Celtic; nearly the sole evidence that survives of a once universal Celtic occupation of the land. River names are divided into two classes, (1) words signifying water, (2) adjectives marking the nature of the stream, smooth or swift, clear or muddy, glassy or black, and so on. Six Celtic words meaning water give names to the principal rivers in Europe—Wysg, Wye, Dwr, Rhin, Don, Afon; of these the two first are of primary importance to us. Wysg water and the related Gwy, a channel, will be recognised as the Usk and Wye, round which two rivers are grouped the main features of the county of Brecknock. The names indicate that to our untravelled ancestors these two rivers were to them "the water" to the exclusion of all others. Besides the Usk there is in this county the Eskir, from the same root. To it, also,



etymologists refer the Exe, with its towns of Ex-eter and Ex-mouth. The Axe, giving its name to Ax-minster; Uxbridge conveys a hint that the Colne on the Roman Colonia, on which it stands, may once have borne the name of Ux. The Ocke joins the Thames near Oxford, while Thames itself, Tam-isis the broad water, bears in its latter syllables the same word. Wisford, Wisley, Wiston, and the Wash in the East of England own the same parentage, while the waters of them all may be diluted with whiskey, or usque bach, under which names of water the Scotch and Irish delicately conceal the strong drink of their country. Abroad there are, in Spain the Esca; in France the Ose; in Germany, Ise and Axe; in Italy the Issa; in Southern Austria, Istria (Is-terra) a country half land and half water, with its capital Trieste. Tre-este, the same word compounded with Tre, a town, word common with us, and meaning the town by the sea. From the closely related word Guy or Wy, we get the Wye, which forms the North Eastern boundary of Brecknock. There is a river Wey in Hampshire, Dorset, and Surrey; it occurs in combination in Con-way and Vryn-wy, both in Wales. In the Solent, formerly Ye wyth, the channel, is the Isle of Wight (Ynys y Wyth) possibly still preserving the name. Similar river names exist in France and Germany.

Dwr is a third word signifying water; it does not occur within the county as a river name, though Gwen-ddwr ("white water") is the name of a parish. Amongst the English lakes the same combination occurs in Derwet-water. In the neighbouring county of Hereford the brook Dore gave its name to Abbey-Dore. Miswritten by the Normans Abbey Dôr, the Abbey of Gold, it gave rise to the faulty translation "The Golden Valley." The word is common in all parts of the British Isles, in France, Italy, Germany, and Spain, where the Douro is great amongst the rivers of Europe.

The two great rivers of the county being thus *the water* and *the river*, smaller streams need a closer and more accurate description, that people may know at once what stream is meant. The colour of the water appeals to the eye for beauty or picturesqueness. The Romans loved to call the Tiber "Flavus," the yellow river. The Zankins had a similar meaning. With us Nant-melyn, the yellow stream, rises amongst the high lands of Llanwrthwl. Nant-gwyn is the white brook. Du-ar, black water, a stream at Llanelly. Du-las at Hay (Du-glas) black green, may be followed elsewhere in the patronymic Douglas; perhaps in the name of another stream Brân, the raven, the same idea is expressed. It would be ungrateful in the present writer to omit Nant-y-glo, the Coal Brook, to whose black diamonds the South East corner of the county owed, half a century ago, its sudden burst of prosperity.

The swift flowing mountain streams may be indicated in Elan, "the hind," northern boundary of Brecknock; into the same valley flows Nant Garw, the rough stream, a name which may possibly be traced in Grwyne-Garw-wye; more certainly in Garway in Hereford, and elsewhere in the Garry, the Yarrow, and the Garonne. Nant-garw, another of the names at Swansea, was well known as a manufactory of porcelain. In the south of the county flows the Mellte, the darting stream (melten, a thunderbolt); in Llangynidr the Yail (? Hual strong water) once gave its name to a church; in the same neighbourhood the same rapid may be rendered by Crawnant (Cryw-nant), the Bucks brook, near to which Buckland has borne its name from early times. Bwch, the Buck, gives its name to a second stream, and Cray, a deer, to yet another. Nant y flaidast, brook of the wolf, and Nant-y-hebog, the hawks brook, still indicate the mildness of the scenery, or perhaps preserve the memory of a savage fauna now extinct.

#### THE LLYNFI BROOK.

In opposition to their mountain torrents let us place Llynfi, the brook from Llyn (the lake), in old books the stream is written Leveni; lefu (smooth) being appropriate to a lake, and giving its name alike to the mountain tarn, haunt of teal and wild duck; and to the stiller pools of Wye, where the salmon, tired with travel from the sea, may rest awhile ere he continue his laborious ascent. The reader need scarcely be reminded of Loch Leven in Scotland, and may possibly observe the same root in the Irish Lean; the Lain in Cornwall; the Lincoln; Kings Lynn; Linlethgow; Linton, and so on. The more graceful aspect of our rippling streams is further illustrated in Cledau, the sheltered brook and the pebbly bed of Nant-y-gro. Generally this may be worthy of note, that amongst the steep valleys of Northern Brecknock, the names of brooks generally indicate tumultuous descent. To those that have been mentioned may be added Nant y Rhostir, brook of the Moorland, from Rhos y Moor, we may pluck "rush" the moorland plant. Nant-rhydd-coch, the brook of the red ford, seems also to tell of mountain and heather; Yrfon is derived by Jones from Yr mawn, oozing from peat. Dihonow, entering Wye a mile below Builth, is Du-nawn-Wye, the black swift water. The Llogan lake and brook (from halogan corrupted) mark one and all the nature of the landscape. On the southern slope of the Beacon range the limestone rock, worn by the water drop of ages into caves and crevice, will sometimes conceal its stream, now tumbling headlong into subterranean chasm, now burrowing amidst boulders; whence, while the bed is dry beneath the foot of



the traveller, can be heard the murmuring of the hidden brook, remarkable features leading to characteristic nomenclature. One brook is Turch (a hog) from its burrowing propensity; another Hepste (dried up), hespin meaning a ewe which gives no milk; Sych Rhyd (the dry ford) conveys a similar idea. It would be interesting to search for names of similar meaning at Adelsburg in South Austria, where the same natural features exist on a far larger scale.

## STREAMS IN THE COUNTY.

The water plant in bed or on bank may give the name of its parent stream. Brwynog, the rushy; Nant y craff, pool of garlic, the scent of which is strong in the nostril of the fisherman as he eats his frugal meal by Wye side; Pwll berrw, the pool of water cress; Cerdin, the mountain ash; and many another, bring back to the memory scenes of beauty amongst which is cast the lot of them who love the gentle craft. In a county so justly esteemed by the angler, the enquiry might be pushed further, each likely spot where the salmon will rise, each stream noted for trout has its proper name. Two miles below Builth, where the Wye for about half a mile surges through a narrow cleft in the rock, there are in succession Ffrwd wen, the white stream; next Hell hole, the danger of which is conveyed by its name; Cavarn hir, the long caravan; Graig ddu, whose "black rock" rears its angry head above the waters, after which Wye, delivered from its arduous passage, flows into Llyn hen, the Old pool, mentioned in history as being near the residences of the Welsh princes at Aberedw. Similarly on the Usk are the Dwfnant, the deep stream; Nant y fin (fin is a boundary), where the parishes meet; and Carn pwll, where Usk makes a bent elbow a mile and a half above Crickhowell. Cam-bent is a common word in brook names. The Cam at Cambridge gives the names in its simple form. Arms "a kimbo" gives the bent arm of the defiant roysterer. In Scotland, an ill-favoured chieftain of Lochiel has given to a clan the name of Cam-eron, wry-nosed, while amongst us the squint-eye of the brave David Llewelyn (the Fluelyn of Shakespeare) has left his better known soubriquet of David Gam ("squinting David") as a name Games, honourably borne in the 19th century by many a good man and true.

Towns, farms, and houses, are very commonly named from the position they occupy with regard to the rivers on which they stand. The amphitheatre of hills from which each streamlet flows is called a "cwm." Anglicised to Combe it is well-known as Ilfra-combe, Wy-combe, and perhaps in Cum-berland. Here, in nearly every valley is a house bearing the name Cwm-onney; Cwm-elau, the Cwmdu, the black valley; Llandewi yr Cwm, St. David's in the vale, separates the parish from others named after the same Bishop.

Blaen, the foremost part gives its name to places facing the brook. The ruined Castle of Blaenllynfi faces Llynfi ere it flows into Llangorse; Blaena and Blaenavon are well-known neighbouring towns. Glan, "on the banks of," gives name to one or more houses by every river. Cymmer, the meeting of two brooks, gives its name to Cefn-Coed-Cymmer, the town placed at the spot where the greater and lesser Taf mingle their waters. Of Aber, "the mouth," where brook falls into river, or river into sea, it is hardly necessary to give instances. For health, we seek Aber-ystrwith, or Barmouth, name corrupted from Aber-mowddog; we sing of the bells of Aber-dovey; we trade at Abergavenny; while our country town of Brecon is still in the Welsh tongue Aberhonddu, where the brook Honddu joins the Usk.

## MOUNTAIN NAMES.

Mountain names must be treated at less length than those of rivers. Pen, a head, is common through Wales, Cornwall, and elsewhere. The top of Crickhowell hill has two peaks, respectively Pen-cerrig-cath and Pen-cloch-Piboa (the Piper's clock). Pen-pont is a parish near Brecon. For a county, Pem-broke, the head of the land; in Scotland, Ben Nevis, and others; abroad, the Pen-nine Alps, and the A-pennines. Bryn, a brow, we know well; Bryn-mawr, the great brow, is our one mining town; abroad we hear of Bran-denbug; and those who have travelled in the Tyrol will remember the Bren-ner pass. Cefn, a ridge, gives its name to Cefn-coed, once a wooded ridge, now teaming with a mining population. Pen y genffordd, (Pen-y-cefn ffordd), head of the ridge road, occurs twice within the limits of the county. Coed, a wood, the second component in Cefncoed, used throughout the county with car (a field); Coed-car, the rough field enclosed from the mountain and attached to nearly every hill side farm. Nearly allied is Maes, a field; Tal-y-maes, the head of the field; Maes-derwyn, oak field; Maes-celyn, holly field; Gwlydd vaes, corrupted into Gliffaes, the dewy field, between Myarth hill and Usk, where the mist of the river, penned in a narrow valley, has fallen in excessive moisture since it first bore the name in the days of Giraldus Cambrensis; Erw, an acre; Gil, a corner; and dol, a meadow; will each occur to everyone as an ordinary prefix, but space will not admit of examples. Garth has been dealt with in discussing the ancient name of Garthmadryn. Talgarth is the front of the Garth; Taly-bont the head of the bridge; Tal-yllyn, the front of the lake; Hay is a



place hedged around, and is the name of the frontier town bewixt Wales and England, commonly prefixed by the definite article; here we speak of the Hay as in France they have La Haye Sainte. It is the same as the German words "hag," a town, and "hagen" to hedge; it is contained in the ha-ha fence, and haw thorn is the beautiful hedge flower,

Dinas, a fortress, occurs several times in the county. Amongst the northern hills the slate quarries of Alt Dinas; at Llanwrtyd, Dinas, place of origin of the Lloyd family, who have named after it their house of Dinas, near Brecknock. South of Talgarth is the manor of Dinas, taking its name, perhaps, from Dinas Castle, perched on a lofty ridge, commanding the pass from Crickhowell to the north. We hear the altic root dun, a hill fortress, in Lon-don, and abroad in Thun and Au-tun, once Augusti dunum, the fortress of Augustus. Caer is the Celtic equivalent to Castra, a camp. Gaer at Cumdu is said to have been the summer quarters of a legion. Gaer as Aberyskir is more clearly marked, the square with a cemetery at one corner being characteristic of the abiding place of a Roman army. If other Gaers you seek, journey to Caer-marthen, Caer-philly, or Car-diff (Caer-taff). Let us mention a few historical names, and have done. The Dinas and the Gaer tell of Briton or Roman, the Castle of Norman or later Welsh prince; yet in every case the name is descriptive, the builder has passed from mortal ken; here and there some battle of bygone days is hinted at. Rhos-y-beddau, "the moorland graves," at Llanwrthwl, tell of an old time slaughter; at Cefn-y-bedd, "the ridge-grave," Llewelyn, last Prince of Wales, met his death. Ynys y marchog, "Knight's island," recalls the ancient days of chivalry. Battle was a cell to Battle Abbey. Tir-abbot, "abbot's land;" Wern y mynael, "monk's meadow;" Monachty, "the Monk's dwelling;" Chaunter's Wood, "the spital or hospice," Pont escob, "the Bishop's bridge," speaks of a day when ecclesiastics possessed a goodly slice of the land; Nantyrarian, "the brook of silver," near Builth, reminds us that when the plague raged, in its cleansing waters was placed the money due to country folk for food supplied the stricken town. To those who care to make the attempt, the place names of nearly every parish would provide research of much interest, but want of space prevents our pursuing the subject further.





## CHAPTER II.

History continued from the Invasion of the Romans, during their stay in Britain and after their departure, to the Reign and Death of Brychan Brycheiniog about the year of Christ 450.

### ROMAN INVASION OF THE COUNTY.

NOTWITHSTANDING what has been said in the former chapter, writes Theophilus Jones', "concerning the division of South Wales into Syllwg or Gwent and Dyfed, may seem sufficient perhaps tedious to the reader, it is absolutely necessary, before I proceed to notice the Roman invasion of this country, to dwell a few minutes longer upon the same subject.

"From the authorities already mentioned, as well as several others which might be collected, it is clearly seen that the inhabitants of South Wales consisted of two several tribes, the one calling themselves by the names of Syllwyr, Essyllwyr or Gwenhwyswyr, and the other Dyfedwyr or Gwyr Dyfed. The current tradition of a very remote period (which in this instance is entitled to nearly equal credit with historic documents) has conveyed to posterity the distinction and the difference of dialect, as well as manners, between the men of Gwent and Morganwg and those of Dyfed, in Breconshire and Caermarthenshire, at this day confirms the fact: but however well known this might have been to the natives, it is by no means clear that the early Roman authors were acquainted with the circumstance; on the contrary it will be evident that Tacitus and all other foreign writers before Ptolomy, describe the whole of South Wales as the country of the Silures. I will not now take upon me to determine, nor could it perhaps pertinently be discussed, whether the British word Syllwyr travelled from Wales into England and from thence to Rome, where it became the parent of Silures, or whether the latter appellation was not immediately applied to this region by the Romans, upon their first bird's eye view from Malvern or some other commanding eminence on the borders of Wales, as peculiarly descriptive of the general appearance of the Southern part of the principality, at that time entirely covered with wood.

### THE LAND OF THE SILURES.

"Pliny, speaking of Ireland, says it is distant only thirty miles from the country of the Silures; here it is clear that by the latter he meant Pembrokeshire, evidently part of Dyfed to every British reader. Tacitus mentions only the Silurum Gens as conquered by Julius Frontinus, though it is certain that the greatest part of South Wales was overrun by that victorious commander. Mr. Pinkerton conceives the term Silures to have been rather generic than confined: 'the whole South of England (says he) was possessed by the Belgæ, save Devonshire and Cornwall, in which and in the South half of Wales dwelt the Silures, a numerous people in two nations; the Dumnonii Southmost and the Demetæ in South Wales.'

"That the Dumnonii were Silures (continues he) appears clear from this, that Tacitus says the Silures lived opposite to Spain and the Dumnonii were in fact the only people opposite to Spain: the chief of the Scilly islands is called Silura by Solinus and the present name seems to spring from it, besides the Silures are mentioned as a vast people, like the Belgæ and Cimbri, and must of course have had various tribes, for if they were only one tribe in South Wales, as supposed, Tacitus would not have mentioned them as a distinct race, for they would have been too minute for notice; we may therefore very fairly conclude with Mr Pinkerton, that however the natives described and subdivided themselves, under the generic term Silures, the Roman historian meant when he spoke of the conquest by Frontinus, the whole circuit of South Wales or Deheubarth, the inhabitants of which uniting in one common cause and probably led on by one *tywysog*, leader or general *en chef*, were naturally enough regarded and spoken of by foreigners as one people.

### OSTORIUS SCAPULA, FIRST ROMAN GENERAL TO PENETRATE SOUTH WALES.

"The first Roman general, whom we know with any certainty to have penetrated into South Wales was Ostorius Scapula, who came into Britain in the year of Christ 51; for though his predecessor Plautius had several battles with Caradoc or Caractacus, yet whether Caractacus made incursions into what were then considered as the Roman territories or was attacked in his own does not appear; that he was a very troublesome neighbour is evident for Tacitus says "non atrocitate non clementia mutabatur, quin bellum exceret castrisque legionum premendo foret." For nine years did Caractacus with



his half-armed, undisciplined and almost naked troops defy the veteran Roman legions, cased in armour and accustomed to victory. The author of *Drych y prif Oesoedd*, or the mirror of former times, says, he fought thirty battles and that though he did not come off *with a whole skin* in all of them, he acquired much glory and great credit to himself for his personal valour, as well as his skill as a general. The Silures, however, under his conduct, were unfortunately attacked and overpowered by the Romans in Shropshire, in the neighbourhood of Knighton (as I conceive), and victory at last, after a hard contest, declared in favour of the assailants, by which the entry of Ostorius into South Wales was facilitated, though it by no means effected an entire conquest. The writer<sup>1</sup> of the Welsh work just mentioned, whose patriotism may be admired, though his zeal cannot always be commended, speaking of Caractacus, says ‘Efe a ymgyrchodd naw mlynedd a holl gadernid Rufain, ac a allasai ymdoppi naw eraill, oni bu’sei ei fradychu ef gan langces ysgeler o’i wlad ei hun a elwir Curtis fin-ddu. Ei araith tuag at annog ei sawdwyr, a gosod calon ynddynt, oedd at yr ystyr hyn; ‘byddwch bybur a nerthol, O Frutaniaid! yr ydym yn ymladd ym mhlaidd yr achos goreu yn y byd; i amddiffyn ein gwlad a’n heiddo a’n rhydd-did rhac Carn-Ladron a Chwiw-gwn. Atgofiwch wroldeb eich teidau yn gyrru Iul Cæsar ar ffo; Caswallon, Tudur bengoch, Gronw gethin, Rhydderch wynebglawr, ‘a Madoc benfras.’ Ar ol ei fradychu i ddwylo ei elynion, fe a ddycpwyd yn rhwym i Rufain, lle bu cymaint o orfoledd a llawenydd, a dawnsio a difyrrwch, o ddal Caradoc yn garcharwr, a phe buasid yn gorthtrechu gwlad o Gewri.” (For nine years he opposed the whole force of the Romans, and he could have resisted them nine years longer if he had not been betrayed into their hands by a dirty drab, though one of his own country women, of the name of black-faced Curtis.<sup>2</sup> His address, to encourage and inspirit his soldiers, was to this effect: ‘Britons! Be valiant. Be firm. We are fighting in the noblest cause in which we can be engaged in life: in defence of our country, in the protection of our property and for the preservation of our liberty against a horde of highwaymen and hirelings.<sup>3</sup> Call to mind the valour of your forefathers Cassibelaun, Tudor the red hair’d, Gronw the terrible, Roderick Broad-face and Madoc Stout-head, who made Julius Cæsar turn his back upon our island.’ When Caractacus was taken prisoner, he was sent bound to Rome, upon which event there was as much singing, rejoicing, dancing and merry making, as if a nation of giants had been conquered.) The speech of the unfortunate Briton before the emperor Claudius, is now so well known and has been so often repeated by the English historians, as to become familiar to most readers; but it is very extraordinary, that not a syllable is mentioned in the Welsh chronicle of Tyssilio about this battle, or the hero who stood so high in the opinion even of his enemies.

#### THE ROUTE OF OSTORIOUS.

“It is impossible to trace with anything like accuracy, the route of Ostorius after this engagement. Much must depend upon conjecture, yet if that may be permitted, it should seem that he crossed over into Herefordshire and from thence into Caerleon in Monmouthshire, then through Glamorganshire along the sea coast and the line where one branch of the Julia Strata afterwards ran, to Caermarthen, and that he returned through Breconshire; in which case, he passed the sites of the stations, Magnis, Gobannium, Burrium, Isca Legionum, Bovium, Nidum, Leucarum, Maridunum, or Muridunum, Bannium or Bannio; now called Kentchester, Abergavenny, Usk, Caerleon, Boverton, Neath, Loughor, Caermarthen, Gaer near Brecon, and also Gaer in Cwmdy, the Roman name of which is lost. In this circuit, he employed his cohorts either to repair, to fortify, or to erect some of these military strong-holds on or near the sites of British camps, or else (as I am more inclined to believe) he must after the defeat of Caractacus, have crossed Radnorshire, from East to West, into the heart of Brecknockshire, by a British intrenchment then called Caer-van or Caer-bannau, where he built the station now called Gaer, and from thence he proceeded to Caermarthen; further than this place (says Camden<sup>4</sup>) Antoninus continues not his journey,<sup>5</sup> and further Westward I do not apprehend the Roman arms penetrated in the time of Ostorius, nor indeed for many years after-

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Theophilus Evans, formerly vicar of Llangammarch, in Breconshire. The book was published at Shrewsbury in 1740, and reprinted at Merthyr Tydvil in 1803: The quotation is given in his own language, because he had a remarkable peculiarity of style, which most of his countrymen admired.

<sup>2</sup> It is not necessary to inform the Welsh reader that this is not a literal translation, any more than the speech of Caractacus as given by Mr Evans, can be supposed to be the very words delivered by the hero to his troops, “vocabatque nomina majorum” is the phrase of Tacitus. Curtis fin ddu, is a fanciful Wallicism for Cartismandua.

<sup>3</sup> Chwiwgi or Whiwi, of which Chwiwgn is the plural, cannot be literally translated as it is here understood, but as nearly as it can be explained in English, it means a contemptible animal

of the human species, who comes and goes, fetches and carries, upon being whistled to.

<sup>4</sup> Britannia.

<sup>5</sup> Richard of Cirencester, after Leucarum, (omitting Muridunum) adds Vigessimum and Menapia, supposed to be Narberth and Saint David’s, but these two latter stations were certainly not built in the time of Ostorius; and if his route was that which we have laid down, the intermediate fortress of Bravinio and Magnis, or Kentchester and Ludlow, and perhaps Ariconium or Wroxeter, were not erected till the time of Suetonius Paulinus, or the conquest of the Ordovices by Agricola, in the year of Christ 79, when they were raised to support and protect the communications between the Roman settlements in North and South Wales.



wards. From Caermarthen he turned Eastward through Glamorganshire to Caerleon, which then became the head quarters of the second legion.

If this was the route that Ostorius pursued, the road or line of communication between Gaer in Breconshire and Caerleon in Monmouthshire was not established, or the stations of Gaer in Cwmdy, Gobannium, and Burrium erected till after the irruption into Wales; at the same time it is highly probable that most of the Roman fortresses in this county were built during the life of this general, for we learn from Tacitus, that he placed troops in them to defend his conquest,<sup>1</sup> who were afterwards attacked with such success by the inhabitants, that he broke his heart when he perceived he was unable to complete their subjugation.

#### REMARKS ON BRITISH FORTRESSES.

“Before I proceed to notice the oldest station in Breconshire admitted to be Roman, the reader will excuse the digression, if I say a few words upon British fortresses; a subject so well and so learnedly discussed by Mr. King, in his first volume of *Monumenta antiqua*, that I should not have presumed to follow him, if fortune, in recompense for the superior abilities he possesses, had not bestowed upon me one advantage in which he is deficient; my countrymen will probably anticipate the observation I am about to make. The knowledge of the Welsh language (which inclination as well as residence in the country has induced and enabled me to attain) is so absolutely necessary to a traveller among British antiquities, that without it he cannot take three steps without the risk of breaking his neck. The want of this knowledge has actually occasioned the fall of the learned writer I have just named, though he will rise I make no doubt of it, with little or no injury. This defect has precipitated him headlong in the beginning of his journey, from one of the highest hills in England. He proceeds to climb it with great caution; looks to the right, then to the left, and after assigning various reasons why Malvern cannot be a Roman, a Danish, a Saxon, or a Norman entrenchment, he concludes that it is a British fortress, and the retreat of Owen Glyndwr. In the latter conjecture, he is not supported by history or tradition; in the inference preceding he *may* in some measure be correct, because this naturally strong hold may have frequently served for the purpose of defence; but if he had been conversant in the British tongue, he would have known that the principal and earliest use to which the summit of the hill was appropriated was the assemblage of the Druids, when they acted in the three-fold capacities of legislators, priests, and judges. Malvern, with very little alteration, is *Moel y varn*: these words are pure Welsh, and signify the *high court* or seat of judgment.

“The original British fortress was nothing more than an almost inaccessible or precipitous rock or natural wall. To these heights men were at first driven for safety from wolves and other wild beasts, when the country was thinly inhabited and the low-lands entirely covered with wood; thither they retired at night for rest, and from thence they sallied forth in the day time in search of food. These therefore were not originally intended so much for defence against man, as against the brute creation, though they were afterwards used as stations, from whence they might more effectually annoy or with greater security resist the attacks of enemies of their own species. This most ancient and always *natural* British fortification, was called Dinas,—and here again, I am sorry to observe, King has been misled by a Welshman. Dinas (says he, upon the authority of Rowland in his *Mona Antiqua*) is derived from *dinesu*, from men’s associating together. There is no such word in the Welsh language as *dinesu*. *Nesu*, or as we write it in South Wales, *nesau*, is (it is true) to draw near or to approach; but *di-nesu*, if the word could be justified, instead of associating or bandying, or rather banding together, would be to retire, to retreat, or *disband*. Dinas is derived from the old Celtic word *Dun*, pronounced nearly like Deen in English, and is frequently found in the names of places in Scotland; it signifies a lofty fortification or strong hold.

“When the Dinas became too small for the family, it was necessary that part of them should seek for other *Dinasoedd*; but as these impregnable rocks could not be everywhere met with, still preferring elevated situations, they settled upon the Bannau or summits of hills; here however they were obliged to supply by their labour what nature had denied, as the approach to these situations was less difficult and consequently more liable to the incursions of an enemy, they found it prudent to protect themselves with high ditches, or ramparts of earth and stone. The inclosures within these intrenchments were called Caer or Gaer, in the plural Caerau or Gaerau, from the verb Cau or Caud, to shut up, to inclose or surround with a fence, ditch or wall. For several centuries, the word Gaer has been most commonly applied to signify a military station or inclosure, but it is in many parts of

<sup>1</sup> Annal. Lib. 12. cap. 8.



Wales used synonymously with *Cac*, a field: thus in a humorous song attributed (I believe) to Lewis Morris, called *Caniad Bugail Tregaron*, or the song concerning the pastor of Tregaron:

Ac wrth ei bwys y grynnai'r llawr,  
Trwy Gaerau mawr Tregaron.

And the earth shook with his weight,  
As he ran o'er the large inclosures of Tregaron.

So also in Edward Richard's *Bugeilgerdd* or pastoral:

Mae llawer un lliwus, er byw yn helbulus,  
Na phrofi bwyd blasus a melus i'r min,  
A'i fwthin di-foethau heb fel nag afalâu.  
Na chnai yn ei Gaerau nag eirin.

Full oft the peasant's cheek we view,  
(Tho' poor his fare) of roseate hue;  
What tho' no dainties grace his board,  
Nor sloes or nuts his *fields* afford.  
Although no honey fills his hives,  
Nor near his cot the apple thrives;  
Content supplies his scanty store  
With ruddy health; nor seeks he more.

#### THE BENNI CAERBANNI NEAR BRECON.

"One of these Caerbannau<sup>1</sup> or hill entrenchments, is seen on an eminence now corruptly called Benni, about two miles North West of Brecon, and about half a mile South East of the confluence of the Eskir into the Usk.

"The original name of this fortress must have been Caervan.<sup>2</sup> Near to this camp, but still nearer to the fall of the Eskir into the Usk, the Romans erected a station, which from the British Ban, they called Bannio,<sup>3</sup> *Castrum Bannii*, or Bonium and *Castrum Bonii*. The genitive case of this Latinized British word produced the present name of Benni, by which the hill is now known; at its foot is a village softened according to a rule continually occurring and well understood in Welsh, into Venni, the modern name for Abergavenny.

#### JONES' EXPLANATION OF BANNIO.

" 'Bomium Nidus and Abone<sup>4</sup> (says Horsley in his essay upon the Chorographer of Ravenna) must, I doubt, be *fished*<sup>5</sup> out of the two names Jupannia and Albinunno, if we find them at all. — — — Isca and Bannio are *doubtless* Caerleon and Abergavenny, and Bannio put for Gobannio in the Itinerary.' Gently, gently, good sir! a little scepticism is allowable upon this occasion. The Roman dress has certainly made a wonderful alteration in the appearance of our Welsh ladies, and it must be admitted that those who have introduced them to us, have made them dance the hay in a very ridiculous manner: those however who have brought them up in the same school from infancy, may possibly be able to identify them even under their disguises, and may succeed (though with difficulty) in restoring them to their proper places, at least I trust the attempt will be considered as commendable. Under Bannio, therefore, I recognize the features of Ban, Bannau, Benni and Venni, as I do also of Go-bannau, the lower or lesser Bannau or Venni in Gobannio, which has undergone a still further state of *disfiguration* in Jupannia, supposed to be Caerdiff, by Mr Baxter of *happy conjecture*, (as Mr Harris,<sup>5</sup> whether jocosely or seriously, I protest I am not able to discover, most happily calls him). Baxter, indeed, has bestowed upon us so much learning, so much Greek, so much Latin, and so much knowledge of the religions and languages of the Armenians, and the Egyptians, and the Teutones, and the Samothracians, &c., &c.; and above all, has introduced so many happy conjectures to demonstrate that *Caer ar daaf*<sup>6</sup> abbreviated into Caerdaaf and Cardiff, means Jupapannia (here the rogue has silyly interpolated two letters to support his hypothesis) that I can scarcely prevail upon myself to attempt to deprive him of the benefits of his *great labour*, and I am only comforted with the recollection, that even if I fail, it is probable his Greek and Latin will be read when my ephemeral lucubrations, and consequently the folly of this attack, will be forgotten. In justice, however, to Richard of Cirencester and Stukely his commentator, I cannot help agreeing with them that Caerdiff was in all probability Tibia Amnis; and to me it seems clear that *Caerdydd*<sup>7</sup> the main prop of

<sup>1</sup> When the Caerau increased, the Dinas was considered as the *metropolis*, or residence of the tywysog, the general or leader of the whole country; thus for several centuries afterwards, we find the courts of the princes of North and South Wales called Dinasoedd (though they were no longer rock fortresses) as Dinas Aberffraw, Dinas Marthrafael, Dinas Pengwern and Dinas fawr or Dinevor.

<sup>2</sup> The *v* here is used to accommodate the eyes and ears of English readers, the modern way of writing this word is Caerfan, though Mr. Owen in his dictionary and other publications is endeavouring to restore the *v*, which certainly was in use in the 13th century.

<sup>3</sup> Anonymous Chorography of Ravenna.

<sup>4</sup> Horsley's Brit. Rom. Lib. 3.

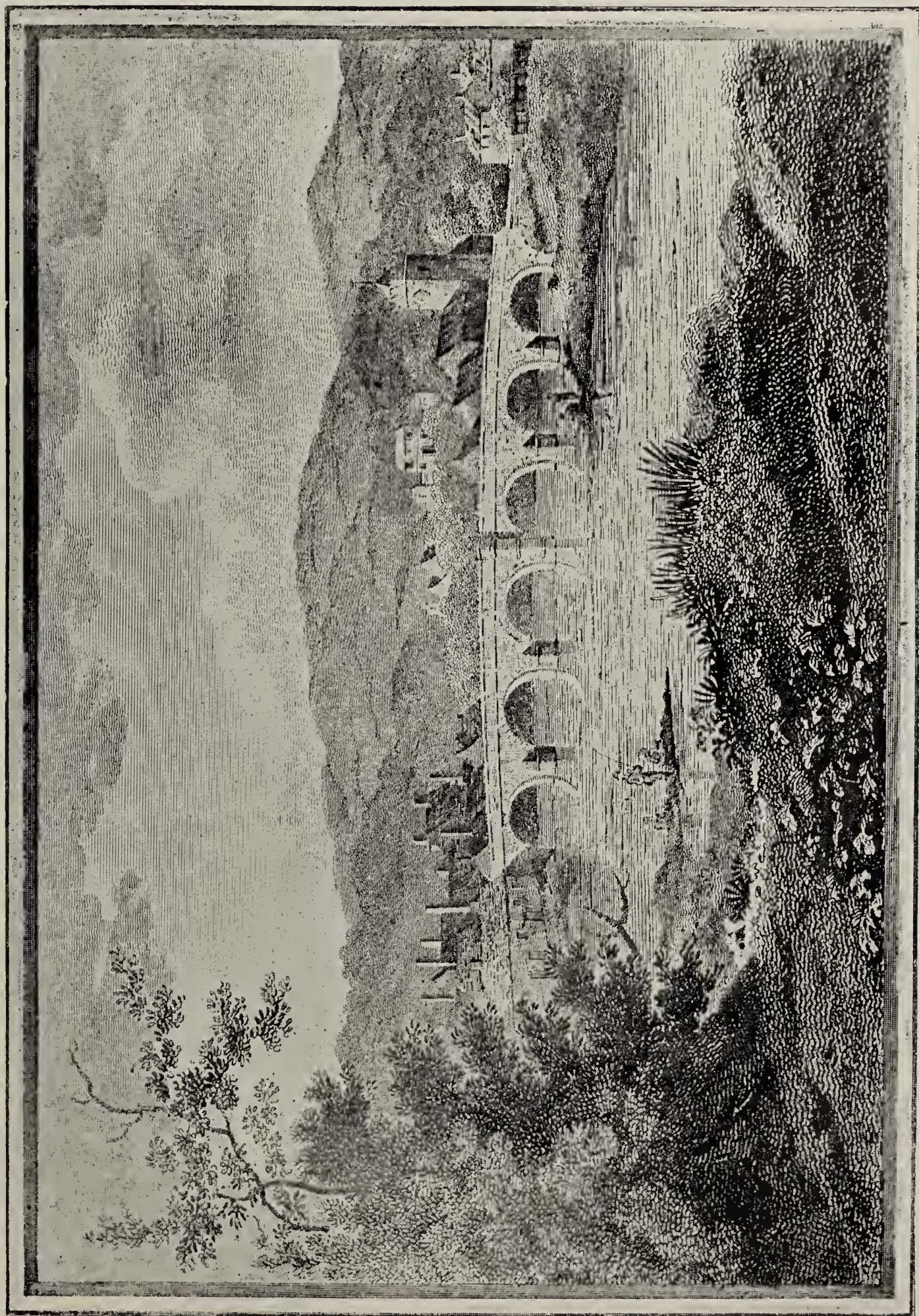
<sup>5</sup> He was a prebendary of Llandaff, and curate of Caerau, in

Glamorganshire, in the last century; he appears to have been a man of great learning and abilities, which we fear were not sufficiently rewarded.

<sup>6</sup> Taaf-wy, Tawe and *Teivi*, from whence Tibia means the same thing, i. e. the winding water: in Taaf, the word wy or water is dropped, though it is preserved in some measure in both the other rivers; Thames is of the same family, with the addition of the sibillating Saxon *s*. The *v* or *f* and *m* are continually changing places, and are as it were equivocal in the old British. This, by the assistance of a valuable and ingenious friend, will be more fully shown hereafter.

<sup>7</sup> "Caerdyf Britannice, hodie *Caerdydh* vocatur sed corrupte," says the annotator on Giraldus Cambrensis's Itinerary, cap. 6. So Jupannia seems also to have been a corruption of Gobannau or Gobannio, Abergavenny.





BUILT IN 1805

(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).







Baxter's conjecture, from whence he would wish us to believe it was Jupiter's town) is a corruption long subsequent to the time of the Romans.

## THE GAER NEAR BRECKNOCK.

“ But to return to Gaer near Brecon. Mr. Harris,<sup>1</sup> in a letter to the Society of Antiquarians, supposes this fortification to have been the Magnis<sup>2</sup> of Antoninus (Magna of Richard of Cirencester). Horsley has satisfactorily proved that there was no Roman station at Old Radnor, though the learned had agreed for some time that this was the scite of Magnis; yet though this station is thus blown out of Radnorshire, if the latter part of the 12th Iter of Antoninus, or the 13th of Richard of Cirencester, be correct, there is no more reason for placing Magnis at Gaer, than at Caerffili. It is totally out of the line from Abergavenny to Wroxeter in Shropshire, and then Kentchester will be admitted to be as Horsley has suggested (notwithstanding Harris's assertion that it is *universally* allowed to be Ariconium) the lost fort Magnis. Harris's confirmations of his opinions (I say it with reluctance, but with great confidence) are extremely futile, and such as we should not have expected to have heard from *him*. He thinks, that because Gaer in two or three charters of Bernard Newmarch and Roger earl of Hereford to the monks of Brecon, is called *vasta* Civitas, it follows it must be the Civitas *Magna*. Bernard Newmarch, soon after his arrival in Brecknockshire, razed Gaer, then called Caervong or Caervon, to the ground, and brought the materials, or at least such as were worth carrying, to Brecon.

“ The *vastum* or *vastatum* Civitatem, mentioned in these charters, meant nothing more than the ruined or ruined city, or site of a city, called Gaer. It is observable that in one of these, it is called Carneys, a corruption of Carnau, or heap of stones.

## THE BUILDING OF ABERHONDDU.

“ This removal of the materials of the city thus destroyed by Bernard to ‘Aberhonddi,’ is mentioned in an old MS. in the British Museum. ‘Inasmuch (continues the MS.)<sup>3</sup> as he liked this place better for fortifications, because of the straits.’ In another MS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxon.,<sup>4</sup> it is called Caervong *vawr* Brevi; and in another in the Bodleian Library, it is written Caervong: the *g* thus retained in all these MSS. must be rejected, as we have no such termination in the Welsh as *ong*. Here then we have the Caervon, or rather Caervan *vawr*, the greater or higher Bannau or Bannio in Brecknockshire, and following the course of the Usk downwards the next station but one, in the line of communication from thence to the head quarters of the second legion at Caerleon, is Gobannio, from the British Go-bannau, the lesser or lower Bannau or Bannio in Monmouthshire.

“ Having established as satisfactorily (I trust) as the nature of this subject will admit, that Gaer near Brecknock is the site of the Bannio of the Romans, I proceed to follow their footsteps in that county; but here I have to lament the want of correct information and the nearly total deficiency of authentic documents, to enable me to trace them. To Tacitus, principally, if not solely, we are indebted for the history of the events in Britain in the first century. Tyssilio's chronicle at the same time that it pretends to inform us of the transactions which passed long prior to this period, and to introduce to us such men in buckram, as Æneas Whiteshoulder, Brutus Greenshield, Belinus, Brennus, Androgeus and a cloud of kindred spirits, with their equally visionary queens and daughters, Ignoge, Estrildis, Sabrina and Genuissa, very rarely condescends to give us even the names of the Roman generals; so that the historian of the present day can do little more than arrange the few facts he may be able to collect, and the produce of his labours can at last only be considered as a connected, but meagre table of chronology.

## THE BRITONS IN THE TIME OF AULUS DIDIUS.

“ Ostorius was succeeded by Aulus Didius, whose utmost exertions were directed not to retain the Silures in subjection,<sup>5</sup> but merely to restrain their incursions into that part of Britain which the Romans called their own provinces, so that South Wales seems at this period to have been almost, if not altogether evacuated by the enemy. Indeed we are told by Tacitus that not long after the partial conquest by Ostorius, the legionary camp master and cohorts who were left there to build forts, were completely surrounded by the Britons, and though the greatest part were rescued upon assistance being sent them, yet the camp master and eighty centurions were slain, the foragers also put to death, and in the continued skirmishes that occurred, the inhabitants from their knowledge of the country were generally successful. These barbarians, we are told, had a remarkable turn of thinking: the emperor

<sup>1</sup> Archæologia, vol. 2. p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> St. Agnes in Cornwall, says Mr. Polwhele, in history of that county, vol. 1. p. 207. Though I presume to know something more of Roman ways than what I have acquired from *my* Camden, I am completely silenced when this historian places

Leucarum, Bomium, Nidus, Isca Legionum, Gobannium, etc., in Cornwall.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. Coll. No. 6870.

<sup>4</sup> Rawlinson, No. 1220.

<sup>5</sup> Tacitus's Annals, Lib. 12.



Claudius<sup>1</sup> had threatened them, that like the Sugambri or Sicambri (who were almost exterminated and the remainder of them carried into Gaul) the name and memory of the Silures should not remain upon the earth. He had called to them, no doubt, by the mouth of his governors, proprætors and prætors, and had commanded them to come peaceably to Rome to be killed. Proclamation after proclamation most likely followed to the same effect; but such was their peculiar obstinacy (says Tacitus) *præcipua Silurum pervicacia*, that they would not submit to have their throats cut quietly. This tenaciousness of life, which is observable in eels and some few animals not endowed with the faculty of reasoning, may perhaps be excused in the *uncivilised* natives of South Wales. There are those, I am satisfied, who will not be surprised at their stubbornness on this occasion, or think them to blame in their determination, and their descendants may be permitted even to applaud their spirit, when they learn that soon after the death of Ostorius they defeated a legion, under the command of Manlius Valens; so that the Romans were obliged to carry on a kind of defensive war with the British inhabitants for nine or ten years, until the arrival of Suetonius Paulinus. During this period the invaders were so uncomfortably situated that their historian Tacitus is compelled thus to acknowledge their fallen condition:—"Our veterans were slaughtered, our settlements burnt, and our armies surrounded; we then contended only for our lives: it was not till some time afterwards that we had any thoughts of making conquests."

#### JULIUS FRONTINUS COMES INTO BRITAIN.

"It does not appear that Suetonius Paulinus ever entered South Wales; his arms were directed against the Ordovices and the inhabitants of Anglesea. His victories there however had the effect of frightening the Silures into a temporary inactivity, with which his three successors, Petronius Turpilianus,<sup>2</sup> Trebellius Maximus and Vettius or Vectius Bolanus, seem to have been perfectly satisfied. Petilius Cerealis, who followed their sleeping governors, was a formidable enemy, but the Brigantes (the inhabitants of Yorkshire and some of the adjoining counties) found him ample employ, though he ultimately subdued them. After him came a truly great and able man, to whose talents and superior knowledge in the art of war, more than to his valour, or that of his troops, may be attributed the completion of the conquest, for which Ostorius had only cleared the road.

"In what year of Christ Julius Frontinus came into Britain is not precisely ascertained; his arrival may with tolerable accuracy be dated about the year 70, as he was succeeded by Agricola in 78. He brought with him to Caerleon the second legion of Augustus, called *Victrix*, and from thence he commenced his expedition into the interior of Wales; as to the particulars of his campaigns and the battles he fought, history is entirely silent; all we learn is that he completely subdued the Silures.

#### ROMAN ROADS IN THE COUNTY.

"To secure his conquest, and to establish a free intercourse and communication through the country, he repaired and rebuilt the forts erected by Ostorius, then in ruins, and caused the military road to be made, from him called the *Julia Strata*.<sup>3</sup> This road has been traced with much diligence, and I conceive with great accuracy, by Williams and Coxe, in their histories of Monmouthshire: the latter has given a map or sketch of its course from Bath to the Severn, from thence to the Caerwent, Caerleon, Cardiff, Boverton, Neath, and Loughor, where he unaccountably makes it stop. Whereas I conceive, it proceeded Westward to Caermarthen, from thence it turned to the East up the Vale of Towy to Llys Brychan in Llandoissant, the site of a station as I conjecture (for at present there are no remains of it, though several Roman coins were some years ago found here, which were sold to a watchmaker in Llywel, who melted them down), then to Tal y sarn, the head or highest part of the military way; from thence it came down on the Southern side of the Usk to Rhyd y briw; here it crossed the river, and near this place (as Mr. Strange observes in one of the volumes of the *Archæologia*, not now by me) it was perfectly visible some time back; from hence it continued in the same direction to some ford near the site of the bridge at Aberbrân; here again it recrossed the river Usk for the last time and proceeded to Gaer, being intersected at this spot by what is now called Sarn Helen; another Roman road leading from Neath to Chester.

<sup>1</sup> Annal. Lib. 14.

<sup>2</sup> Tacitus, speaking of this man, (Annal. lib. 14.) says "Is non irritato hoste neque laceratus honestum pacis nomen segni otio imposuit." (Satisfied at not being attacked by the enemy, he refrained from hostilities on his side, and dignified a life of laziness and indolence with the honourable name of peace.)

<sup>3</sup> It is difficult to conceive why Horsley in his essay on Antonine's Itinerary, should wish to deprive Julius Frontinus of the credit of planning and constructing this road, so absolutely necessary to the preservation of his authority over a country he had acquired by the sword, or why he should be desirous to

attribute to a Briton a work evidently Roman. He supposes the *Julia Strata* to take its name from Saint Julian "a Saint (says he) much known in that country;" he is mistaken; he is not much known in the country through which the greatest part of the *Julia Strata* runs; and if it had been named from him, it would have been called *Strata Juliana*, and not *Julia*. Cressy gives us a Julius who suffered martyrdom in the third century: he was (says he) "a citizen of Caerleon." No person who has read the history either of England or Wales, ever dreamt of attributing this road to Julius Cæsar, as Horsley has intimated,



“ From Gaer, the Strata Julia continued Eastward to Brecknock, passed across a street, since called from this circumstance *the Street*, a corruption of street or stratum; from thence it proceeded under and on the South side of an eminence known by the name of Slweh, to another at Llanhamlach, called Ty Iltid, where there is a Cromlech, and formerly was an Exploratorium or Arx speculatoria, as I conceive. From hence it ran in the same direction, above Scethrog House, under the hill called Allt yr yscrin, keeping in a higher line than the present turnpike road from Brecon to Abergavenny, and ascending to the pass called Bwlch, which it crossed, and then pursued the course or track of the old Bwlch road, where the remains of it are still visible. From thence down into the vale of Cwmdy, by a house called the Gaer, where there was, I am firmly persuaded, a Roman station of vast extent, though not at present known to antiquarians, but of which a plan and description will hereafter be given; from thence it passed to Tretower, to the ruined church or chapel of Llanfair, near which we again meet with a mound, probably an Exploratorium; from thence to Crickhowel, and so on in nearly a straight line to Abergavenny, from which station it followed the course of the river Usk, keeping the whole of the way on the North side to the towns of Usk and Caerleon. At this latter place, the link united, and proceeded in one line to Caerwent and Bath.

## SECTIONAL ROMAN ROADS.

“ As soon as the Romans had firmly seated themselves in Britannia Secunda, it is natural to suppose they would wish to establish several vicinal or cross roads between the two chains; accordingly we find one, running nearly North and South, from Caerdiff to Caerbannau. This road proceeds from Caerdiff to Caerphili, though its track thus far is not easily discerned, but from the latter place, leaving Bedwas on the right, it proceeds in the same direction to Pont yr Ystrad, on a high ridge between the rivers Sirhowy and Rhymny and enters Breconshire at Brynoer, fifteen or sixteen miles from Caerphili; it is known to the inhabitants by the name of Sarn-hir, the long causeway. Its track during the whole or the greatest part of this distance is perfectly discernible, kirb stones occasionally appear on the sides; it is about ten feet wide, and whenever it crosses bogs, large flat stones have been laid down as a foundation for the superstrata of smaller gravel and earth. After entering Breconshire, it still retains the same direction along the Trevil ddu, or Tyr foel ddu, to Blâncrawnnon, Penrhiw-calch, down Glyncollwm, from thence to Llanfrynach, where from the discovery of some Roman baths, there seems to have been a Roman general's villa, or perhaps a campus æstivus. From thence it followed northward, crossed the Usk somewhere near Brecon and joined the other branch of the Julia Strata leading to Gaer. At Brynoer, about half way on this road from Cardiff to Brecon, Roman cinders are now frequently found. Where a blomery seems formerly to have been established, at Llanfrynach, the iron was probably brought down to be manufactured; at this latter place, there is now a field called Closy Gefailion, or the smith's field, or the field of the smiths' forges.

“ I am also strongly inclined to believe from the appearance of an antient road on Llwydlo fach, in the parish of Tyr yr abad in Breconshire, discovered a few years back in digging turf, resembling in its materials and formation the works of the Romans, that another of their military ways connected Muridunum with the station of Cwm in Radnorshire. This stratum or sarn began, as I apprehend, at Carmarthen; proceeded from West to East on the north side of the Towy up to a farm now called *Ystrad*, to Llandovery and Llanvair-y-brin church, where some antiquarians are of opinion there was a station; from thence near Glanbran to Llwydlo fach, on which common its track is now visible, crossed the Irvon at Llancamddwr into Llangammarch; passed *Caerau*, the site of an Arx speculatoria, but not of a station as I conceive, though the contrary has been asserted by some authors, and they are in some measure justified in their conjecture by the name which this place still retains; from thence it proceeded through the parishes of Llanafan fawr and Llanvihangel-bryn-pabuan, crossed the Wye somewhere near the New bridge, entered Radnorshire and joined the Sarn Helen or Chester road at Cwm in Llanyre.

“ Mr. Harris observes very properly in his letter to the Antiquarian Society, that in order to curb more effectually the Silures, the Romans formed *two chains* of garrisons (though in fact, as has been just mentioned, they are only a link in a line, as will be seen in the annexed map). Both, says he, began at Caerleon; one ran through the south part of the country, which lies near the Severn sea, and the other north, along the river Usk: these last he explains to be Burrium, Gobannium, and as he conjectures, Magnis, where he also halts; but without a doubt there must have been a communication between the upper Bannio or Caervan-vawr. I am informed that upon the confines of Carmarthen-shire, westward of the river Sawdde, in the hamlet of Dyffrin Cydrich, and in the parish of Llangadock, there were formerly remains of another Roman station; and if the road from thence forward, in the same direction, could be traced, perhaps another could be found below Golden Grove. The town of Treacastle has a mound indeed of considerable height, which, if the Roman road ran here, on that side of the river might have been the site of a smaller tower of Arx speculatoria; but there are no remains



of entrenchments or fortifications to induce us to suppose this place ever to have been a respectable military station, and I have reasons for believing this eminence was collected and thrown together after the time of the Romans.

#### THE SARN LLEON AND JULIA STRATA.

“At Gaer, near Brecon, as I have before observed, the Strata Julia was crossed by the Sarn Leon or Via Helena, leading from Neath to Chester. This road, the tradition of the inhabitants attributes to Helen, the mother of Constantine; it might with equal truth, be said to be the work of Helen of Troy. Our Helen (the daughter of old king Coel, or Coel Godebog), as the British historians call her, though there are considerable doubts as to her *birth, parentage, and education*, must have been a wonderful roadmaker indeed, if all those in Britain called Viæ Helenæ, are of her construction; she must certainly not only have been the first, but the most active surveyor general ever born in this kingdom. But Sarn Helen here, is only a corruption of Sarn Leon or Sarn Lleon Gawr. When or where this hero of antiquity lived, I presume not to determine; the chronicles of Tyssilio says he was contemporary with Solomon king of Israel, and speaks thus briefly of him: <sup>1</sup> ‘Bryttys Darianlâs a drigiod gyda ei Dat, ac ev a wledychod wedy y Dat deng mlyned, ac ar ei ol y by *Leon Gawr* y vab ynte; a gur da vy hwnnw y rwydhaws llywodraeth y Dyrnas ac adailiwyd yn y part draw yr Gogled o ynis Brydain Dinas a elwir Caerlleon ar amser hwnnw ydoed Selyv ap Dafyd yn adailiat *Temyl Iessu Grist yngharissalym*.’ (Brutus Greenshield remained with his father, and he governed the country ten years; after him followed his son Lleon, the mighty, and he was a good man, and a king who encouraged truth and justice. And this Lleon established and reformed the government of the kingdom, and built a city in the northern part of the island of Britain, called Caerleon,<sup>2</sup> by some said to be Carlisle, and at this time Solomon, the son of David, built the *temple of Jesus Christ* at Jerusalem.)

“From a chieftain of the name of Lleon, Chester was called Caer-Lleon; and from its leading to that city from Nidus or Nedd (now spelt Neath), this road was called by the Britons, Sarn Lleon, or the Chester road, which was Latinized into Strata Leona, afterwards corrupted into Strata or Via Helena, though I must take the liberty, with great deference to Owen, to believe that here and there a Via Helena *may* be a corruption of Sarn y Lluon,<sup>3</sup> an anomalous plural of Llu an army or multitude, which may be translated almost literally into English, by the military way or road.

“At Neath, the Sarn Lleon is discernible on the marsh, on the north side of the river Neath, opposite to the castle, to which it evidently led; from thence it proceeded east by north, and is discovered at Lletty'r Afel; it then ascends a hill called Cefn-hîr-fynidd and so to Gelly-ben-uchel, Banwen, and Ton y vildra, where it enters Brecknockshire, and its formation appears as perfect as when first made, excepting its slight coat of turf and grass. A little south eastward of Ton y vildra it crosses a brook called Nant-hîr, pursues the same direction to Blan-nedd by Cefn-uchel-dref, leaving that farm and also the lime kilns at Carnau-gwynion in Ystradfellte to the south, keeps a course parallel with the road from Pontneathvaughan to Brecon for near a mile; passes close by a stone of about nine feet high, called Maen Llia, and instead of proceeding as the present road does to the head of that nearly precipitous dinge, called Cwmdy, it may be traced gradually descending on the south side of the river Senni and vale. From this place it is now no longer visible for a considerable distance, but it probably passed above Blân-senni house, where the inclosures and the plough have completely effaced or concealed it, until we come near Blângwrthid, in the parish of Llanspyddid, where it is again seen. Near Blângwrthid is an artificial mound, on which formerly perhaps was an Exploratorium, though afterwards converted into a small fort or keep (according to the tradition of the country) by Maud de St. Valeri, wife of William de Breos, who lived in the reign of King John. Here we lose it, and we can only conjecture that it descended into the vale of Usk, near Bettws, or Penpont chapel, where it joined the Julia Strata and proceeded with it to Gaer; from thence northward, I have not *hitherto* been able to trace it with accuracy, though I believe I observe here and there some remains of it.

“Having given the general outline of the works and the track of the roads made by the Romans in Brecknockshire, little more can be said of them until I come to the parochial history of the county. when the lesser and more minute features will be described. The inhabitants of this part of the principality

<sup>1</sup> Myf. Arch. vol. 2. p. 124.

<sup>2</sup> Pennant, in his tour in Wales, (vol. 1. p. 111.) supposes Caerlleon or Chester to mean the camp of the Legion, and calls it Cae'r lleon vawr ar Dyfrdwy, the camp of the great and twentieth legion of the Dee. He is not aware that Lleon, if it applies at all to Legion, *must* be plural; but the city is called Caerlleon *gawr*, and not *vawr*, in all old English MSS. He shall, however, have his choice of Caerlleon vawr, or Caerlleon gawr; in

the one case it will be Castrum Legionum *magna*, and in the other Castrum Legionum *Principis*.

<sup>3</sup> It would be dangerous to refer the reader to Richard's dictionary, who says the plural of Lleng a Legion, is Lleon. “Poor plodding Richards (says that Cawr Goronwy Owen) his book will be of no service to the next compiler, or indeed to any body else.” *Camb. Register*, vol. 2. p. 505. I humbly beg leave to acknowledge *my* obligations to him, and to admit his utility.



either submitted quietly from henceforward to the yoke of their masters, or if any material events occurred during their stay in this country, the memorials of them have perished in the lapse of ages.<sup>1</sup>

“About 150 years after the establishment of the Romans in Britain, the emperor Severus divided his territories there into two provinces, Britannia Prima and Britannia Secunda: the latter comprehended the whole of North and South Wales. Constantine in about half a century afterwards, again divided them into six provinces, distinguished by the names of Britannia Prima, Britannia Secunda, Flavia, Maxima, Valentia and Vespasiana, and a regular itinerary (the first perhaps of Britain) was drawn up by Lollius of the whole.<sup>2</sup>

## DISCOVERY OF ROMAN BATH AND COINS.

“From several coins of Alectus, Carausius, Constantius and Constantine, having been found at a place called Carnau bach in Llanfrynach, in Breconshire, where a Roman bath, and other works of that people were discovered some years back, it should seem that the legions remained in that country during the reigns of those emperors, and until Maximus in the year 383 carried them together with the flower of the British youth, into Gaul, never to return, leaving behind him a feeble and enervated race, accustomed to a life of inactivity and indolence, fondly attached to the luxuries introduced by their conquerors; corrupted by their vices, but possessing neither their virtues nor their valour, and totally incapable of protecting themselves against the attacks of an enemy: until from the repeated incursions of the Scots and Picts, and afterwards of their merciless foe the Saxons, they were once more compelled to learn the use of arms, and to habituate themselves to a life of warfare.

## REFERENCE TO WELSH AUTHORITIES.

“Thus far, I am indebted to the authors of Rome and the Empire for the information I have been enabled to collect. I am now obliged to have recourse to the MSS. of the Arwydd feirdd, or heralds of our country, and though this source of intelligence may be scanty, perhaps incorrect, and consequently not to be as implicitly relied upon as the authors I have hitherto quoted, they are intitled to considerable attention. They are systematically arranged, cautiously selected and carefully preserved, by those parochial or provincial officers whose duty it was to record the exploits and pedigrees of our ancestors. Should it be necessary to add another argument, there is one still behind, which will justify my reference to them—*they are the only documents to be found* that treat of that part of the principality now called Brecknockshire.<sup>3</sup> In one of these MSS. we are informed, that about the latter end of the first century, and before the conclusion of those calamitous wars which terminated, as has been seen, so fatally to Silurean liberty, there lived a king, or rather regulus of Brecknockshire (then called Garthmadrin), whose name was Gwraldeg,<sup>4</sup> and according to this account, Meurig or Marius, now governed Britain, as Brenhin Prydain oll, or monarch of the whole island. In his reign the territories of Albania or Scotland were invaded by a captain or leader who came from Egypt, though by birth a Grecian, of the name of Gadelus. This adventurer, with a chosen band of friends and accompanied by his wife Scota, possessed himself of that part of the country, from him since called Gadelway or Galloway. Among his attendants in this expedition, was a young man, named Teithall or Tathall, son of Annwn Ddu or Antoninus Niger. This Teithall was remarkable for his amiable disposition and the suavity of his manners, and being introduced into the British Court, he had the good fortune to attract the notice of King Meurig, by whose interest he obtained in marriage Morvytha (Morfydd), only daughter and heiress of Gwraldeg, king or rather regulus of Garthmadrin. Unfortunately for the credit of this legend, there is a trifling anachronism in the tale, which will send *captain* Gadelus, his lady and their followers, into the company of Æneas White-shoulder, Brutus Greenshield and the other doubtful heroes of antiquity; for whose acquaintance, we are indebted to Tyssilio or Geoffrey of Monmouth. Gadelus, as some old Scottish authors tell us, married Scota, a daughter of Pharaoh Cenchres, king of Egypt, and made himself master of that part of Great Britain, in honour of his consort called Scotland.<sup>5</sup> Now this conquest of Scotland by Gathelus or Gadelus (which by the by has long since been exploded by the more learned and respectable historians of that nation) is supposed to have taken place at a period very little subsequent to the departure of the Israelites out of Egypt; whereas Meurig, king of Britain, in whose time Gwraldeg is said to have lived, did not begin his reign till the year 72 of the Christian era.

<sup>1</sup> The loss of a volume by Ammianus Marcellinus, which it is said, contained a history of the occurrences in Britain during part of the time the Romans remained there, is particularly to be regretted.

<sup>2</sup> Whit. hist. of Manchester, vol. 1.

<sup>3</sup> MS. Rawl. 1220, Bodl. Lib. MS. Harl. Coll. 6870, Brit.

Mus. MS. 6108, ditto. MS. 2289, ditto.

<sup>4</sup> For his descendants continued by a female who married Brychan Brycheiniog hereafter mentioned, see Appendix No. V.

<sup>5</sup> Fordun's history of Scotland, lib. 1. cap. 8. Major de Gest. Scot. lib. 1. folio 17. Girald. Camb.



Be this as it may, and whether Teithall was of Greek, Roman or British origin, the MSS. inform us that by this marriage he had issue Teithin or Tydheirn, who succeeded his father in the government of Garthmadryn, and left issue, as some say, Irith y blawd, who was followed by his son, Teidfaltt or Teithphaltim, though others omit this Irith the *mealman*.

“Teidfaltt or Teithphaltim is reported to have encroached upon his neighbours, and to have been the first who assumed the title of king of Garthmadryn. Hugh Thomas<sup>1</sup> supposes this to have been effected by his joining forces with the Irish, Picts and Scots, in their invasions of South Wales. If so, this places him, and consequently his ancestor, Gwraldeg, much later than he is stated to be in this MS., as the incursions of the barbarians did not take place until nearly the period when the Romans were about to quit Britain; probably therefore, this prince lived in the time of the commotions mentioned by Julius Firmicus, which brought the emperor Constans into Britain<sup>2</sup> in the middle of a tempestuous winter; the particulars of which (says Echard)<sup>3</sup> are recorded in that volume of Ammianus Marcellinus which is now unfortunately missing. Indeed it is highly probably that Hugh Thomas and those MSS. which place Gwraldeg in the year 230, are correct, as the seven persons here named, can hardly be supposed to have lived so long as from the middle of the first to the beginning of the fifth century.

“Teidfaltt<sup>4</sup> was succeeded by his son Tewdrig,<sup>5</sup> Tydyr or Tudor. According to the computation of Hugh Thomas, he was contemporary with the emperor Valentinian, and acted in conjunction with the Picts, Saxons, Scots and Attacotti. The continual squabbles for empire, the licentiousness and turbulence of the Roman soldiers and the wars with the Germans, the Alemanni and other inhabitants of the Continent, fully employed the attention of the Roman emperors and generals at this time, and though we do not know that any resolution had yet been formed of quitting Britain, their possessions here were now only considered as a secondary object. The consternation, however, which these barbarians had spread throughout the provinces by their savage and ferocious acts of cruelty, not only along the coasts, but in the interior of the island, at last compelled the emperor to send his general Theodosius to expel the enemy, and to reduce the rebellious natives to obedience. It is supposed, says Thomas, that upon the restoration of peace by that officer, the votive Altar found at Gaer or Caerfan, and removed to the priory of Brecon some years back, was erected.

“Tewdrig had issue only one daughter, whose name was Marchell or Marcella,<sup>6</sup> who married Aulach, Anleach, Afalach or Olave, said to have been a son of Corineog, king of the Brigantes or Britains of Dublin, though he was most probably of that part of Ireland now called Wexford. This Corineog, in a MS. in the library of Jesus College, Oxford, written about 500 years ago and quoted by Hugh Thomas, is called Cormac mac Eurbre Gwyddel; of his son's marriage with the heiress of Garthmadryn, we have a strange tale or legend in Latin in the Cottonian library, entitled “Cognacio Brychan inde Brechenawe dicta est, pars Demetiae in S. Wallia.” It is as follows:<sup>7</sup>

#### THE BIRTH OF BRYCHAN.

“Tewdrig, king of Garthmadryn, with his captains and elders, and all his family, removed to Bryncoyn<sup>8</sup> near Lanmaes. This Tewdrig had an only daughter, whose name was Marchell, whom he thus addressed, ‘I am very uneasy lest your health should suffer from the pestilential disorder which at present ravages our country (now Marchell had a girdle made of a certain skin, to which popular opinion attributed such a virtue, that whoever girded their loins with it, would be safe from any pestilential infection). Go therefore, my daughter (says he) to Ireland and God grant you may arrive there in safety. Her father then appointed her 300 men and twelve honourable maids, to wait upon her and conduct her thither. On the first night they reached Llansemin,<sup>9</sup> where one hundred of her attendants died (whether from cold or pestilence is not asserted, though the English

<sup>1</sup> Hugh Thomas was deputy herald to Sir Henry St. George, Garter, principal king at arms in the year 1703: he was son to a Mr. William Thomas, a salesman and a citizen of London, of the family of Thomas of Llanvrynach, in Breconshire; he was by profession an arms painter; fond of antiquities, he made collections for a history of Brecknockshire, of which a quarto MS. intitled “An essay towards the history and antiquities of Brecknock,” is preserved in the Bodleian library: he left his MSS. number 2288 and 2289, to the Earl of Oxford, but his lordship very liberally paid for them to his brother, who was very poor; they are now in the Harleian collection, bound up in volumes, but not arranged; he died without issue, in 1714.

<sup>2</sup> A. D. 543.

<sup>3</sup> Echard's Roman hist. vol. 3. p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> A. D. 364.

<sup>5</sup> A MS. in the British Museum, No. 6870, informs us that

Tydyr ap Neubedd, lord of Brecknock, lived at Crweccas, near Brecon, and that he was a benefactor to the church of Llandaff; but I am inclined to think that the Tydyr or Tydyr, who gave Merthyr Tewdrig, now called Mathern, to the see or rather the church of Llandaff, was this Tydyr ap Teithwalch, although Llewellyn Offeiriad's MS. makes him live too early for the episcopacy of Oudoceus. Williams in his history of Monmouthshire, calls him Tewderic ap Teithwalch, and says he was a prince of Gwent, and the first who built a church at Llandaff, page 75.

<sup>6</sup> MS. 2289, Harl. Col.

<sup>7</sup> Appendix, No. VI.

<sup>8</sup> There is a field near Llanfaes being part of Newton farm, which is called Bryn Gwin, on this field were formerly heaps of stone and vestiges of buildings.

<sup>9</sup> Perhaps Llansevin in Llangadock, Caermarthenshire.



legend asserts it was from extreme cold). On the morrow, anxious and alarmed at this melancholy event, she arose and proceeded on her journey, and arrived the same night at Madrum,<sup>1</sup> where as at the former place, she lost one hundred men. On the following morning she rose very early, and the third night brought them to Porthmawr<sup>2</sup>; from whence, with her surviving hundred men and maidens, she passed over to Ireland. Upon the news of her arrival, Aulach, the son of Gormac, the king of the country, met her with a most princely train, and the cause of her coming being explained to him he was so smitten with her beauty and pleased with her high rank (for she was the daughter of a king), that he fell in love with and married her; making at the same time a solemn vow, that if she produced him a son, he would return with her to Britain. Aulach then made honourable provision for her twelve maidens, giving each of them away in marriage. In process of time, Marchell conceived and brought forth a son, whom his father named Brychan; and when Brychan had completed his second year, his parents took him to Britain, and they resided at Benni. The English legend relates the same story, with some little difference and additions: for after informing us of the journey of Marchell into Ireland and her marriage there, it proceeds, 'and Marchell brought forth a son and called him Brychan, and Aulach with his queen and son, and the captains following, viz., Karmol, Fernagh,<sup>3</sup> Ensermach, Lithlimich, &c., came to Britain. Brychan was born at *Benni* and was placed under the care of Drychan, whom some call Brichan and others Brynach, and this Drychan brought up Brychan; thence Brychan was brought to Brecheiniog, when he was *four* years old. And in the seventh year, Drychan said to Brychan, bring my cane to me; and Drychan was dim in his latter years, and while he lay waking, a boar came out of the woods and stood on the banks of the river Yschir,<sup>4</sup> and there was a stag behind him in the river, and there was a fish that bellied the stag (i.e. was under the belly of the stag), which portended that Brychan should be happy in plenty of wealth. Likewise, there was a beech which stood on the banks of the said river, wherein the bees made honey, and Drychan said to his foster son Brychan, 'Behold this tree of bees and honey I will give thee also full of gold and silver, and may the grace of God remain with thee here and hereafter.' And afterwards Aulac gave his son Brychan as an hostage to the king of Powis; and in progress of time, Brychan lay with the daughter of Benadell, and she brought him a son named Cynog, who being carried to the tents was baptised; when Brychan taking the bracelet from his arm, gave it to his son Cynog. This Cynog is famous in his country, and the bracelet is still preserved as a curious relick.'

## THE ARMS OF MARCHELL AND BRYCHAN.

"The plain English of these tales, as far as it can be made out, seems to be, that this princess and her countrymen to avoid a famine or some contagious disorder, were driven into Ireland, where she married and afterwards returned with her husband to her native land, when the scarcity was over or the disorder had ceased. The arms given by the British heralds to Marchell were, *Or*, three bats, or (as they call them, *rere-mice*) *azure*, beaked and clawed *gules*: perhaps these ill boding harbingers of darkness were adopted in commemoration of the gloomy pestilence which then raged in the country, and their beaks and claws were represented red, to denote the bloody characters which marked its track. These arms, quarterly, second and third, with those of Brychan, viz., *sable*, a fess, *Or*, between two swords in pale, points up and down, *argent*, pommeled and hilted of the second, are now those of the county of Brecon: they are borne by the Gwynnes of Glanbrân in Caermarthenshire, and Garth and Buckland in Breconshire, as well as by several other descendants of this Aulach and Marchell.

"In this succession of reguli, I have hitherto followed the MS. of Hugh Thomas, which is confirmed by several others; but George Owen Harry<sup>5</sup> in his book of pedigrees, intitled, 'The well-spring of true nobilitie,' differs in toto from the line chalked out by them; he takes no notice whatever of Gwraldeg and his race, nor does he even mention the territory of Garthmadryn. But after a long catalogue of the princes of Glamorgan, he comes at length to Niniaw, who had issue Teithwalch, who had issue Tewdrig, the father of Meurig prince of Glamorgan, and Marchell, the mother of Brychan, surnamed Brecheiniog: this, if true, would lead us to conclude, that Garthmadryn, instead of being an independent state, as elsewhere represented, was nothing more than a cantred of Morgangwg or Glamorgan, and now first separated as a marriage portion with Marchell, whose son exercised a regal power of changing the name to Brecheiniog; but this account is intitled to little credit or

<sup>1</sup> Meidrim in Caermarthenshire.

<sup>2</sup> Porthmawr, a Haven near St. David's.

<sup>3</sup> Three Miles Westward of Brecknock is a hill called Mynidd Ffernach.

<sup>4</sup> Eseir or Yseyr.

<sup>5</sup> George Owen Harry was rector of Whitechurch in Kemeys,

in the county of Pembroke, and lived in the reign of James the first. The Truman MS. hereafter often referred to, agrees with George Owen Harry in deriving Tewdrig, then called Tewdrig Vendiged, or the blessed king of Glamorgan, Gwent and Garthmadryn, from Teithall ap Teithrin ap Niniaw, etc.



attention, opposed as it is by six or seven pedigrees of different ages and by different writers. Especially when the manners, as well as the language of the two provinces (as has before been observed) have always varied, and marked them as distinct tribes.

“This disagreement between the genealogists may perhaps be accounted for, when we recollect that Teidfallt, Teithphaltim or Teithwalch, is said to have been a troublesome restless chieftain, and to have encroached upon his neighbour's territories; he may therefore have dispossessed the regulus of Glamorganshire, and George Owen Harry, or rather the herald whom he follows, finding him in the list of princes of that country, may have considered him as the son of Niniaw, his predecessor in the MS. But the majority of writers is so evidently and indisputably in favour of the descent from Gwraldeg, that I cannot consent to give him up, even though the Glamorganshire family would connect prince Brychan with the hero of Troy and the long race of British kings supposed to spring from him.”

To the foregoing observations of Theophilus Jones we make the following additions.

#### FURTHER NOTES ON THE DINAS.

Little is known of Britain before the days of the Roman invasion. Traders had sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar, through the Pillars of Hercules, and in the ocean that flows round the earth had discovered two Britannic islands, Albion and Ierne. The greater portion of Albion level and woody; the produce corn and cattle, gold, silver, iron, and tin; skins, too, and slaves; also dogs sagacious in hunting; the men taller than the Celtic, and their hair less yellow; their manners simple; though possessing plenty of milk they made no cheese, nor were they acquainted with husbandry. Forests were their cities: having enclosed a space with felled trees they made themselves huts and there lodged their cattle, but not for any long continuance.

Had the author's informant penetrated so far as the tribes of the Silures, inhabitants of what is now Brecknock and the surrounding counties, he would have found a different class of city. The Dinas, or primeval fortress of the Silures, is in every case within the county of Brecknock, a walled inclosure on the top of a hill, its size limited only by the extent of the summit, surrounded by a dry wall for the purpose of defence, a diagonal wall sometimes leading down the hill perhaps to provide a covered way to obtain water; indications of a gate with exterior defences; the exterior often pitted with shallow excavations some three feet deep, probably roofed once with branches of trees and forming the dwelling place of our rude ancestors—a place of protection for the aged, the women, and the children, a haven for cattle against the marauder, and a rallying point for the warrior,

The County of Brecon is studded with many such dinasoedd, no longer clearly distinguishable, one of the many mysteries of the prehistoric past—each Dinas, doubtless, crowded with wonder-stricken warriors and terrified women, when the civilised legions of Rome marched into the woodland valleys of Siluria.

#### THE ROMAN PERIOD: B.C. 55—A.D. 441.

The Roman Empire had spread itself over the known world: its armies, under their victorious General Julius Cæsar, had subdued the natives of Gaul, and had advanced to the southern shores of the British Channel. The Britains, having sent supplies to the Gauls, Cæsar resolved upon the conquest of the British Isles. Accordingly he landed in Britain on the 26th August in the 55th year before Christ: a month later, having lost many ships in the storm, he returned to Gaul. In May of the following year he made a second expedition. The people of the country now called Essex, Middlesex, and Kent, yielded to the Roman invasion. Cæsar, however, shortly returned to Gaul, and never again visited Britain.

Nearly a century passed before any further attempt was made at conquest. Christ was born, and had suffered, and a new era had arisen. The Emperors Augustus and Tiberius had reigned at Rome. The conquest of Britain, ever and anon, floated before the eyes of the Romans as a brilliant legacy bequeathed by their greatest citizen, but it was not till the 43rd year of the Christian era that the Emperor Claudius despatched Aulus Plautius in command of the third expedition. The occupation of the Island was unattended with difficulty. The natives, though possessed of bodily strength and bravery, were no match for the disciplined troops of the invader, and when the General left, after a few years' sojourn, the level country of England had been subdued by the victorious Romans.



The Welsh still gave trouble. In Cornwall the old nationality maintained itself, while the Silures, inhabiting South Wales, and their northern neighbours, continued to defy the invaders. As, during the Gallic wars, the Island of Britain had, while unoccupied, been a thorn in the side of the Roman Generals, an unapproachable base, from which war could be waged, and stores obtained, and in which the discontented and the deserter could find a refuge, so now a similar position was held by the mountains of Wales and the distant island of Anglesey,

To protect the country already conquered, Ostorius Scapula, who succeeded Plautius, marched immediately on his arrival against the people of South Wales, defeating them and their King Caractacus, whose wife and daughter were taken prisoners; while he, having fled northward to the Brigantes, was by them surrendered to the enemy and sent as a captive to Rome.

A series of fortified stations were now established between England and Wales. A camp for the Fourth Legion at Wroxeter in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury; one further north at Chester for the Twentieth Legion, and a third for the Second Legion at Venta Silurum, afterwards called Caerlleon (the camp of the legion). On the camp at Caerlleon the wild Silures poured; and but for speedy reinforcements would have cut the garrison to pieces; as it was the Prefect and eight Centurions were slain, though ultimately victory declared itself for the Romans. Henceforward there were frequent encounters and skirmishes, with plundering parties, in the woods and marshes. Of all the native tribes the Silures were the most determined; they cut off auxiliary cohorts as they were ravaging the country without due circumspection, and by distributing the spoil amongst the neighbouring nations drew them also into revolt.

At this period died the Roman General Ostorius, wearied by the obstinacy of the contest. The Roman Emperor, apprised of the death of his lieutenant, replaced him with Aulus Didius. In the meantime the legion commanded by Manlius Valens had sustained a defeat at the hands of the Silures, who were making incursions on the occupied country. Didius at once set upon them and repulsed them. A stone at Tretower, built into the north gateway of Tretower House, and inscribed with the name Valens, seems to indicate that Brecknock was within the limits of the theatre of war, and possibly that the Roman camp at Gaer, Cwmdy, was then in existence. Didius was a man advanced in years; he contented himself with allowing his lieutenants to keep the Britons in check, and did no more than retain former conquests.

His successor Veranius ravaged the country of the Silures, but shortly died. The time of the next Governor, Suetonius Paulinus, was occupied in an attack on Anglesey, and afterwards repelling a revolt of the Iceni, whose vigorous onslaught, under the Queen Boadicea, imperilled the very existence of the Romans. There is no record that Suetonius, or his successor, Petonius Turphilianus, ever entered Wales, though it has been suggested that the monumental stone at Crickhowell, to "the two sons of Turpil," might refer to the General. In the opinion of Professor Westwood it is of later date.

In the year A.D. 70, or a little later, Julius Frontinus became Proprætor in Britain. To him are ascribed the military roads of South Wales. The effect of a better organisation was at once apparent. The Silures yielded to Roman arms, the tide of warfare receded from South Wales, and from that time forward Scotland and the North seem to have exclusively occupied the forces of the invaders.

#### SOME FURTHER NOTES ON ROMAN ROADS.

For the military occupation of a country, roads have been in all ages a first necessity. The English in the 19th century have advanced the railway to the north-west frontier of India, are pushing an iron road northward from South Africa through the land of the Zulu, while from the north the railhead on the bank of the Nile is carried forward immediately in the rear of victorious forces in the Soudan. So the Romans, more than 18 centuries ago, joined their posts of Dover and Richborough in Kent, with London, then, as now, the most important city of Britain. Out of the 15 roads mentioned by Antonine, London is the starting place of seven: of these only three are of importance to our present purpose.

The route (numbered two) started from the Great Wall reaching from Tynemouth to Solway Firth across the island, separated the limit of the Roman Empire from the northern barbarian, whence the road led southward and eastward to London and Richborough on the coast of Kent. The road was the direct route from Londinium (London) to Uriconium (Wroxeter) and thence northward to Deva (Chester), marked in the Itinerary as the headquarters of the 20th Legion. It was thus the highway to



North Wales, and as the invading army passed freely from North to South Wales, this road became an important item in the fortunes of our county—Uriconium (Wroxeter) being the point at which the various roads joined.

Another road (numbered seven) led from Regnum (Chichester) past the haven of Portsmouth and Southampton to Calleva (Reading) and London. The last two stages on the route, from Llandinium (London) to Pontibus (supposed to be Windsor, 22 miles, and thence the same distance on to Calleva of the Attrebates, a tribe then inhabiting Berkshire. Calleva is believed to be Reading. The miles given in Antonine's Itinerary have been useful in enabling critics to fix the places to which ancient names refer. They are generally correct, but at times vary, sometimes giving too great a length, apparently by the clerical omission of a figure, CIX written for CXIX, and perhaps sometimes on account of wood and river making a necessity for detour.

From Reading (Calleva) South Wales was approached by two routes, one through Durocornovium (Cirencester) and Glevum (Gloucester), Ariconium (Ross), Blestium (Monmouth), to Burrio (Usk). This being the nearest point to Brecknock, let us leave the route—though it proceeds to Isca Caerleon where it joins the next route. We now trace the second road from London by Reading to South Wales.

Following the last mentioned road for 17 miles from Reading to Speen, the road now passes to Aquæ Solis (Bath). The name "Waters of the Sun" indicating that the medicinal property of the waters was known to the Romans. From Aquæ Solis to Trajectus (Bristol), thence to Abone, a place conjectured to have been on the Severn, somewhere, perhaps, where the New Passage or the Severn Tunnel are now. Thence crossing the river Severn the road approached Venta Silurum (Caer-went), Gwent being the ancient name of Monmouthshire; Caer-gwent, the camp of Gwent, may have been in days long past, a place of import. The road ends at Isca (Caerleon) Caerleon, or in Latin *Castra legionis*, being the headquarters of the Second Legion.

The road from London to the nearest points to Brecknock end here; the route along the south coast of Wales was continued to Muridunum (Car-marthen). For our purpose it will be convenient to proceed at once to Carmarthen, tracing the road towards the county of Brecknock. Leaving Mauridunum, in which word we vaguely see the name Marthen, helping historians, mayhap, to the antiquity of the name, the road ran eastward through Llucarnum (Lwghor) to Nidum (Neath), thence through Bovium to Isca (Caerleon) at which point the road joins those from London by Gloucester and Bristol, already traced. Over these roads the traveller now passes to Barrium (Usk), where he turns, passing northward to Gobannium (Aber-gavenny) and thence to Magni (Kenchester), Bravinium (perhaps Brandon, Brampton, or Leintwardine), and so to Uriconium (Wroxeter in Salop). Wroxeter is said to have been Wrekencester (the camp of the Wrekin). This road must have been of great importance in Roman-British history, connecting the road from London to South Wales with that which united the Metropolis (Iter. II.) with Chester and the North to the Principality. Note particularly on it the following places: Muridunum (Carmarthen), Nidum (Neath), a point not mentioned now, Cardiff (Caer Taff, the camp of the Taff), and Gobannium (Abergavenny). From these points start the local roads connecting with the great thoroughfares the military stations in the county of Brecknock.

The Roman roads are supposed to have followed ancient British trackways. To the moderns it may be interesting to note how nearly they have in turn been followed by the railways of the 19th century.

The 13th road of the Romans is represented by the route of the Great Western Railway from London to Gloucester and South Wales; the 12th road is its continuation along the coast of South Wales to Carnarvon. The 14th route, which in the original is called *aliud iter*, an alternative road, passes through Bath and Bristol to the south shore of the Bristol Channel, whence the Roman sought the coast of Wales by labour of the oar, and we of modern times rush under the waves of the Severn through the tunnel framed by engineering skill.

In tracing the main roads there has been followed Antonine's Itinerary. The work of an unknown Roman, and written at a date also unknown, it was either originally written in the fourth century, or brought down to that date in a subsequent edition. The local roads, now to be shortly described, can still be here and there recognised, have been marked where visible on the Ordnance maps, and have been mentioned more or less correctly in the works of several recent historians.

Amongst the most important of vicinal roads is one starting presumably from Carmarthen (Muri-dunum) following the Teivy river to Llandilo, whence it is shown in the Ordnance maps following the



present road from Swansea to Llandovery to the Roman town of Loventium, now Pontllaino, north of Llandovery, from which place it runs still northward through North Wales. At or near Llandovery it was joined by a second road, the most important from our point of view of all the Roman roads, via Julia Montana, running East and West through the whole length of the Vale of Usk from its source past Brecon to Abergavenny. Passing a camp at a height of over 1,400 feet above the sea the road can be traced across the Trecastle mountain. Passing the castle it keeps north of the Usk, crossing the river at Senny Bridge; the south bank is then followed, though the river must have been crossed once more to reach the Gaer camp at Venny fach, the most important station in Brecknock, commanding the road east and west, and another to be hereafter described from Cardiff to the north. From Gaer the road can be traced to Brecon, where a street still called Struet (Stratum), preserves the memory of the ancient Roman stratum.

From Brecon the road continues Eastward South of the Slwch camp, passing the hill known as the Allt at a higher level than the present road. It follows the top of the ridge to Bwlch and down the hill to the Roman camp at Gaer in Cwmdy; beyond this point no traces have been identified, but there can be but little doubt that it passed by the village of Tretower, and so by Crickhowell to Abergavenny. At Abergavenny (Gobannium) it joined the road (Iter. XII) already described, connecting that place with Uriconium (Wroxeter) on the north and southward with the coast of the Bristol Channel and the roads leading thence to London. Road XII bears the name Walting Street.

A road appears amongst the mountains of the Beacon range. This ran from Cardiff over the Gelligaer Common and past the modern town of Merthyr, following the course of the river Taff until the road bifurcates on the Taff Fechan at a point immediately south of Point Twyn reservoir called Dol-y-gaer (the meadow of the camp). The western road can still be traced following the Taff Fechan in a north-westerly direction; it may possibly have passed to the west of the Beacon down the Tarrell brook to Caer Bannau, though I know not whether its course has there been traced. Crossing Glyn Collwyn above and to the east of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway it keeps the top of the hill, finally descending to Talybont. It probably joined the road through the centre of the Vale of Usk, though at what point remains a matter of uncertainty.

The last road to be described is the Sarn Helen, corrupted from Sarn Lleon, the road of the Legion, possibly so named because Chester, Caer Lleon—*Castra legionis*, the camp of the Legion—was one of its termini. From Neath the road leads along the ridge of Hir Fynydd, "the long mountain," a mile or more to the east of the Brecon and Neath Railway. Passing a camp marked on the Ordnance Map it enters Brecknock at Ton y ffildre, crosses the valley of the Nedd, and crosses into that of the Llia; by its side is a stone, Maen Madoc, 1,373 feet above the sea. The road still ascends, more than fourteen hundred feet above the sea; and then descends the northern slope of the mountain. It is lost after passing Blaen Senny, to reappear for a short distance at Blaengurthyd, somewhat over a mile south of Penpont. After passing the Gaer the route leads to Brecon, and can thence be traced northward up the Vale of Honddu. A mile above Lower Chapel it leaves the modern road to Builth, and ascends the mountain to the east of Merthyr Cynog, taking the ridge between that parish and Gwenddwr. It rejoins the present road to Builth at the top of the hill before the wayside public house at Cwm awen is reached; it then follows the west bank of the Dihonw to Maesmynis, from which point it probably proceeded to Builth, where the Wye would be crossed. A Roman road and station have been found a few miles North at Llanyre in Radnorshire, whence the route passes in all probability still to the north.

The Roman roads which concern Brecknock have now been traced with such accuracy as is in our power. Two routes from London via Gloucester and Bristol to South Wales; one from Carmarthen through the Vale of Usk to Abergavenny; one from Neath via Brecon to Chester; a road connecting Chester and Wroxeter with London (the highway to North Wales); and a shorter route from Cardiff to the Carmarthen and Abergavenny route between Brecon and Bwlch. From some remains of an old road discovered in the 18th century on the mountain at Llandulas, Theophilus Jones considers that there may have been another Roman road down the Vale of Irfon; more careful mapping since that day has led to no further discovery in this direction, though it has enabled us in the above sketch to trace the Sarn Lleon much further than he did.

#### ROMAN CAMPS.

Roman military camps were arranged according to a definite plan, modified only by the numbers for whom accommodation had to be provided. A camp intended to accommodate a consular army



PORTA PRÆTORIA

INTERVALLUM

PORTA PRINCIPALIS SINISTRA

PRINCIPIA

PORTA PRINCIPALIS DEXTRA

PORTA DECUMANIA

This square was divided into two unequal portions by a straight road called the Principia, or principal street, one hundred feet in breadth, having at its two extremities camp gates called the right and left gates of the principia. On one side of the principia, half way between the gates, stood the pretorium or general's tent, so situated as to have a commanding view in every direction. To the right and left were the forum (F) or market place, and the Quætorium (Q) or paymaster's tent. Further to the right and the left were the guards of the general and paymaster. Along the upper side of the principia street stood the tents of the twelve tribunes of the legions opposite the troops under their command. On the other side of the principal street was encamped the main body of the army. This part of the camp was intersected by a street fifty feet in breadth. Ten thousand square feet contained a squadron of thirty men and horses; the same area accommodated a company of infantry, sixty men.

Between the tent and the outer wall was an intervallum, let us say an "interval," or space two hundred feet broad, by which ample room was given for the passage of the legions in and out. The camp was provided with four gates. The fortifications consisted of a ditch nine feet deep and twelve feet wide, the earth from which, thrown to the inside, formed a rampart, on the summit of which were fixed stout wooden stakes.

In countries, such as Wales, wild and barbarous, where the native tribes were hostile, armies of occupation were forced to remain constantly in camps. They usually occupied different grounds in summer and winter. The camp at Caerbannau, near Brecon, forms a rectangular space, the sides measuring respectively 624 and 426 feet, is about one-twelfth the size of the camp above described, and indicates a garrison of perhaps 1,500 men. Bricks have been discovered here, stamped with the names of the Second Legion.



The "Justum Iter," or fair day's march of a Roman soldier, was twenty Roman, equivalent to nearly  $18\frac{1}{2}$  English miles. Roman armies never halted for a single night without forming a regular entrenchment, capable of receiving within its limits the whole body of fighting men, their beasts of burden, and baggage. So completely was this recognised as part of the ordinary duties of each march, that *prevenire ad locum tertius . . . quartis castris*" (Livy XXVII, 32)—to come to the place for the third or fourth camp is the established phrase for the number of days occupying in passing from one point to another. The camping ground was carefully chosen, a spot giving sufficient space to lay the camp out in the prescribed form, convenient for procuring water, wood, and forage, and a place to which the natives, if friendly, could readily bring this produce for barter.

We should expect, then, to find on each approach to the camp at Caerbannau, an entrenchment at a distance regulated by the necessity of mountain travel, but approximately 18 miles English, a subsidiary entrenchment, good enough perhaps for summer residence, but at least sufficient for a night's rest when the army was on its march. From Brecon to Abergavenny is twenty miles, a long day's march. It is accordingly divided into two, and the camp at Gaer Cumdu is pleasantly situated in the valley, just below the "Half-way House" of modern times. The carved stones found in the neighbourhood of this camp indicate that it was permanently occupied; it may have been used as a place of summer residence. In the opposite direction towards Carmarthen a camp is found on the edge of the county on the Trecastle Hill, about fifteen miles from the camp at Brecon.

On the Sarn Helen the journey from Neath to Brecon was broken at a camp also on the boundary of the modern county. The stage from Neath being perhaps twelve miles and that to Brecon about sixteen, an arduous mountain march over the Beacon range. From Brecon, the Sarn Helen took the route to Builth over the Eppynt range, roughly speaking the line of what is now the sixteen mile road. No station has been found between Brecon and Builth which would seem an appropriate resting place; the castle field with its various ditches may have been the site of a camp, though it has never been recognised. At Llanyre in Radnorshire, a few miles further, a Roman station is marked on the Ordnance map. This would have been too distant from Brecon to have covered in one day. The last road from Brecon to Cardiff has its station (as is said) on the Aberdare Hill. This would give a distance of about 15 miles from Brecon, the distance at which such a station would reasonably have been looked for.

#### ROMAN STONE AT BATTLE.

One of the finest Roman stones found in this country was ploughed up in a field at Battle in 1877. It is two feet high; broken length 22 inches. Letter D,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches; N,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Professor Hübner and the Rev. J. Wordsworth suggest the following reading: DIS[manibus C Juli] CARN[didi] (Tanci) NI FILI eq (quitis) (alæ) HISP(anorum) VETTON(um) (civium Romanorum Julius) CLEM(ens) DOM(itius valens heredes fecerunt) ANN(orum) XX STIP(endiorum) III. H(ic situs est). The date is suggested as the end of the first or beginning of the 2nd century. The place where the stone was found was about a mile from the Roman camp at Bannium. It was in 1902 preserved at Pennoyre mansion. The engraving here produced was made from a photograph taken by Mrs. Cleasby of Pennoyre.

#### ROMAN POTTERY, COINS, AND GLASS.

In 1851, a Roman tile was found at the important Roman station, the Gaer, bearing the inscription LEG. II AVG. It was preserved by Mrs Price, the landlady of the Gaer Farm at that period,—(one of the ancestors of the Prices of 17, Bridge Street, Brecon, a family for several generations resident in this district, and to whose memory there are many old monumental stones in the Priory and Aberyscir—as well as another tile previously discovered. Drawings of them were made for exhibition at the Tenby meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association, held about that time.

Mr David Evans, J.P., of Ffrwdgrech, the present owner of the property at the Gaer, has also at Ffrwdgrech a collection of the above which have been recovered from the Gaer Camp (Bannium). Amongst this collection are Roman bricks inscribed LEG. II. AVG. (the Second Legion of Augustus—half the Legion was stationed here); two glass beads or rings, one grey the other blue or purple; coins, seven apparently gold, of which two are the size of a florin, the others smaller, about 12 bronze and copper. These seem to have been injured by fire and cannot be identified. There are also many fragments of Samian ware: on the handles of some amphoræ are the potterer's initials ISLP. This lustrus red ware is conjectured to be that spoken of by Pliny and other authors, as used by the Romans for their meals and other domestic purposes. It is not suggested that ware found in England was actually made at Samos. The term Samian was used as in the present day china is a term for all sorts of earthenware, European or Oriental.



## CHAPTER III.

History continued—From Brychan Brecheiniog,<sup>1</sup> sometimes called Brychan Yrth, to the Reign and Succession in the Line of Cradoc Fraich-fras.

“BRACHANUS,” says Dr. Powel<sup>2</sup> speaking of Brychan, “*natus erat patre Haulapho Hybernorum Regeet Matre Britannica, nimirum, Marcella, filia Theodorici filii Teithphalti Reguli de Garthmadryn, illius nempe Regionis quæ ab hoc Brachano nomen accipit et hodie Brechonia vel Brechinia dicitur Britannie Brecheinoc*”; so that it seems clear, whether the mother of Brychan went into Ireland, attended in the manner just mentioned, or not; or whether she was or was not possessed of that girdle, whose virtue we should suppose would have made such a journey unnecessary, she married an Irishman, who it is said, died in Breconshire and was buried in Llan-spyddid in that county, where a stone now to be seen, though there is no inscription upon it, is supposed to have been placed to his memory. The time of his death is unknown, but he was succeeded in the government of Breconshire by his son Brychan, in the beginning of the fifth century. The MS. in Jesus College, before mentioned, says he begun his reign in the year 400, and that he died in 450: he however did not establish himself without considerable difficulty, as the native princes, jealous perhaps of his Irish origin, made great opposition to his claims; particularly as his countrymen and the Picts and Saxons, had a few years previous to, and indeed during his time, renewed their incursions into Britain, for, in 420, we are informed that a horde of these plunderers were defeated at Maesgarmon in Flintshire,<sup>3</sup> by the Britons, with the bishops Germanus and Lupus at their head. The monkish historians attribute this victory to the suggestion of the former prelate, who instructed his army to attend to the word he gave and to repeat it: accordingly he pronounced that of Hallelulah! His soldiers caught the sacred sound, proclaimed it aloud three times with such extatic force, that the hills resounded with the cry; the enemy were panic struck and fled on all sides, laying down their arms and their booty, whilst the pious Britons pocketed the plunder and thanked God for his assistance: however improbable this tale may appear, it may perhaps be reconciled to truth, without having recourse to a miracle.

### WIVES AND CHILDREN OF BRYCHAN.

“Brychan, we are told, had three wives, of names most unintelligible and uncouth even to a Welshman; whose powers of swallowing consonants are supposed to be equal to those of an ostrich in devouring and digesting iron. The Jesus College MS. does not give them to us, but George Owen Harry calls them Eurbrost, Ambrost and Pharwysty, and the *Bonedd y Saint*, Eurbrawst, Rhybrawst, and Pheresgri: the reader is of course at liberty to adopt whichever set he prefers. By these wives he had a numerous progeny; most of whom embraced a religious life, and became the nursing fathers and nursing mothers of the church: ‘*Quibus passim per Cambro-Britanniam,*’ says Giraldus, ‘*Templa et Divorum et Divarum nomina inscribuntur*’; yet there are hardly two genealogists who perfectly agree as to their names. They are said to be more than forty in number. The names of thirty-four, copied from a Welsh MS. of Llewelyn Offeiriad, by Mr Edward Llwyd, were sent by him to Hugh Thomas, and will be here introduced. Thomas informed Mr Llwyd (as appears by a letter<sup>4</sup> of his, still preserved among his papers in the British Museum) that he had also a list copied from a MS. of a Mr. John Jones, of Devynock. George Owen Harry gives another, Leland another, from the life of St. Nectanus, and the *Myfyrian Archæology* another; all differing as to some of the names. Leland<sup>5</sup> makes them all reside in Devon and Cornwall. Mr. Carte<sup>6</sup> says, the sons of Brychan were sent to Ireland to be instructed in religion and learning; but Hugh Thomas<sup>7</sup> thinks it probable that some of them at least received their education from Saint Dyfrig or Dubricius (afterwards consecrated a bishop by Saint Germain), who then kept his famous school, spoken of by

<sup>1</sup> In his corrections in Vol. 2 Theo. Jones has this note:—“In deference to my predecessors I have translated and described Bernard Newmarch, the Conqueror of Brecknock, by *de novo mercatu*, or of Newmarket, but it has lately occurred to me that as he neither came from a Newmarket in France or in England, or ever had any possessions in either, he should be more properly called *Bernard le neuf marcher*, or *de le neuf marches*, the new lord marcher, or of the new marches; a description peculiarly appropriate in his time to the Borders of Wales; yet

after all *de novo mercatu* may with full as great propriety be translated when it occurs in ancient documents, *of the new march*, as *of the new market*.”—EDWIN DAVIES.

<sup>2</sup> Note on the 2nd Chap. Gir. Camb. Itin.

<sup>3</sup> Pennant’s tour in Wales, vol. 1. p. 437.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. Coll. No. 6381.

<sup>5</sup> Collectanea, vol. 4. p. 153. 8vo.

<sup>6</sup> Hist of England, vol. 1. p. 186.

<sup>7</sup> Harl. Coll. No. 2289.



the centuriators of Magdeburgh, upon the banks of the Wye, probably at a place now called Gwenddwr or Gwaynddwr; from whence he obtained the name of Gainius or Gwaynius<sup>1</sup> *Vagensis*.

“The sons of Brychan, according to the Jesus College MS., were Cynawg, Drem Drem-rudd, or the ruddy countenanced, Clydwyn (the first legitimate son according to others), Ilien, Papai (whom the Irish, says the MS., call Pianno, Pivannus and Piapponus), Cynodi, Rhwfan, Marchai, Dingat, Berwyn and Rheidoc; the daughters, Gwladis, Wrgren, Marchell, Gwtlith, Drynwin, Cyngar, Rhynhyder, Eleri, Gwawr, Gwtvil, —rugon, Eitech, Tangwystl Tydvil, Goleuddydd, —van, Gwen, Felii, Tybieu, Emmreith, Rhyneiden, Cledy, another Gwen, and Alud, to which some MSS. add Cenau and Dwynwen, and others, Ceinwen.

#### ST. CYNOG'S BRACELET.

“Cynawg or Cynog, as has been before noticed, was a natural son of Brychan, by a daughter of Banadyl prince of Powis, whose name was Banadlvedd. Soon after his birth<sup>2</sup> he was put under the care of a holy man named Gastayn, to whom the church near Llangorse pool, called Llangasty talyllyn, was dedicated, and by whom he was baptized. Cynog is recorded in the Romish calendar as a Saint of great celebrity. Cressy<sup>3</sup> says the fame of his sanctity was most eminent among the Silures; his name is consigned among our English martyrology on the eleventh of February, where he flourished in all virtues about the year of Christ 492. To him refers that which Giraldus reporteth of the wreath of St. Canawc (for so he calls him) which the inhabitants of the county esteem to be a precious relick and of wonderful virtue; insomuch that if anyone is to give testimony, if that wreath be placed in sight, he dare not commit perjury. This wreath is spoken of in the legend of Brychan, as a bracelet given by Brychan to his son on the day of his baptism, and which, the reporter says, ‘is still preserved.’ When he wrote we do not know, but unfortunately we do know that it has been long irrecoverably lost; as without asserting that mankind are become more wicked than they were in the year 492, though it is much the fashion to think so, we may venture to affirm that in proportion, as population has increased, and oaths have been multiplied, it would be ten thousand times more useful in 1805 than it was in the days of St. Cynog.

“This holy man is said to have been murdered by the Pagon Saxons,<sup>4</sup> upon a mountain called the Van, in the parish of Merthyr Cynog in Breconshire. The following churches in this county are dedicated to his memory: Merthyr Cynog or St. Cynog the Martyr, Devynog,<sup>5</sup> Penderin and Llangynog; as are also Boughrood in Radnorshire, and Llangynog in Montgomeryshire.

#### THE SAINTS OF BRYCHAN'S FAMILY.

“Before we proceed to the lines of Drem Drem-rudd (by some called Rhain) and Clydwyn, between whom the greatest part of the territories of Brychan were divided, we shall take the liberty of disposing of the Saints and *Saintesses* of the family, who seem to have inherited little, if any, of their father's possessions, and to have placed their expectations much higher; as their whole endeavours were to seek a kingdom not of this world. Of Ilien, Papai and Cynodi, the third, fourth, and fifth sons, we know nothing. Rhwfan settled at Anglesea; Marchai, in Cyveiliog in Powis, and Berwin, in Cornwall. Dingat resided near the place where the town of Llandovery in Carmarthenshire is now situate; where a church is dedicated to his memory, as well as at Dingatstow in Monmouthshire; though Brown Willis incorrectly says these churches were dedicated to Saint Mary. Dingat had two sons, Pascen and Cyflydr. Hugh Thomas says that in Tywyn church in Merioneddshire is an antient tomb-stone, thus inscribed, P A S C E N T. This, if not the grave of Pascentius the son of Vortigern, who had territories, as it is said, in the neighbourhood of Builth, was, in all probability, a monument to the memory of Pascen ap Dingat. Rheidoc, the youngest son of Brychan, according to Llewelyn Offeiriad's MS. in Jesus College, which we have hitherto followed, is supposed to have passed the greatest part of his life in France; and there is a question whether he was not the Sanctus Briocus or Brioc, Bishop of Brioux in Normandy, noticed by Cressy, as the pupil of St. Germain or Germanus; but Mr. Carte thinks not. In the life of St. Brioc, published by Andrew Saussage, in Martyrol. Gallic, he is said to have been a Briton of noble birth, in *Provincia Corticana*, which Camden and Archbishop Usher have mistaken for the county of Cork in Ireland. Carte believes him to have been a native of Caerdiganshire, called Regio Ceretica, from Ceretus or Cereticus, an antient regulus of that country,

“Gwladis, the eldest daughter of Brychan, married Gwnlliw ap Glewissus, regulus of that part of antient Gwent, which lies between the rivers Usk and Rhymny, then called Glewissig. Capgrave tells

<sup>1</sup> He was (it is said) of Abergwayn or Fishguard and from the place of his nativity, called Gainius, but Leland says, he was born on the banks of the Wye.

<sup>2</sup> Cotton MSS.

<sup>3</sup> Church history.

<sup>4</sup> From the MS. of Thomas Truman of Pant Llwyd, in Llan-sanor, Glamorganshire.

<sup>5</sup> Sed. q. v. Postea.



us that Gunleus growing weary of the world, abdicated his government, and retired to a cell, where, living with singular austerity, he supported the remainder of his life by the labour of his hands; but John of Tinmouth (who calls him a king of the Southern Britons) says, that after the death of his father, he being the eldest son, divided his kingdom into seven parts; six of which he gave his brethren, reserving to himself the other part, as well as the seigniorship over the whole. Ystradgynlais, or the vale of Gunleus, is in Breconshire, on the borders of Glamorganshire, and was perhaps so named from him. He was attended in his last moments by Dubricius bishop of Landaff, and died in the arms of his son Cadoc or Cattwg, on the twenty-ninth of March, A.D. 500. The churches of Llangunllo in Radnorshire, Nantgunllo in Caerdiganshire, and St. Woolos near Newport, in Monmouthshire, are consecrated to his memory. He left issue by his wife Gwladis, St. Cattwg, St. Cynidr, and other children.

“St. Cattwg the *wise* (as Owen in his *Cambrian Biography* calls him) was the first who made a collection of the proverbs and maxims of the Britons: according to his author, he had a brother named Cammarch, to whom the church of Llangammarch in Bualt was dedicated. He was educated under an Irish Saint called Tathai, who had opened a celebrated school in Gwent or Caerwent, the Venta Silurum of the Romans. Having agreeably to the law of Gavelkind, inherited part of his father’s lands, he founded on his own portion, the Abbey of Llancarvan in Glamorganshire, which he governed, and in which he exercised an unreserved system of hospitality, for Capgrave tells us he daily sustained one hundred ecclesiastical persons, *as many widows*, and as many other poor people, besides those who visited him: for though he was an abbot and had many monks under his government, he very properly and very prudently reserved a part of his father’s principality, to be charitably distributed to such as were in need. He is said to have died in North Wales; authors differ as to the precise period. Harpsfield makes him alive in the year 570, but Cressy says this is erroneous, as St. Dubricius is recorded to have been present at his, as well as his father’s death. The inquiry at this time would hardly be worth pursuing, excepting that in a chronological point of view, it may be useful to establish the origin and foundation of those churches that have been dedicated to his memory. Gibbon, however, observes that the ancient legendaries deserve some regard, as they are obliged to connect their fables with the real history of their own times; and another author remarks that in the grand collection of French historians, executed with a care and magnificence worthy of a great nation, the ancient lives of Saints are inserted under each century or division, as equal vouchers with the ancient historians.

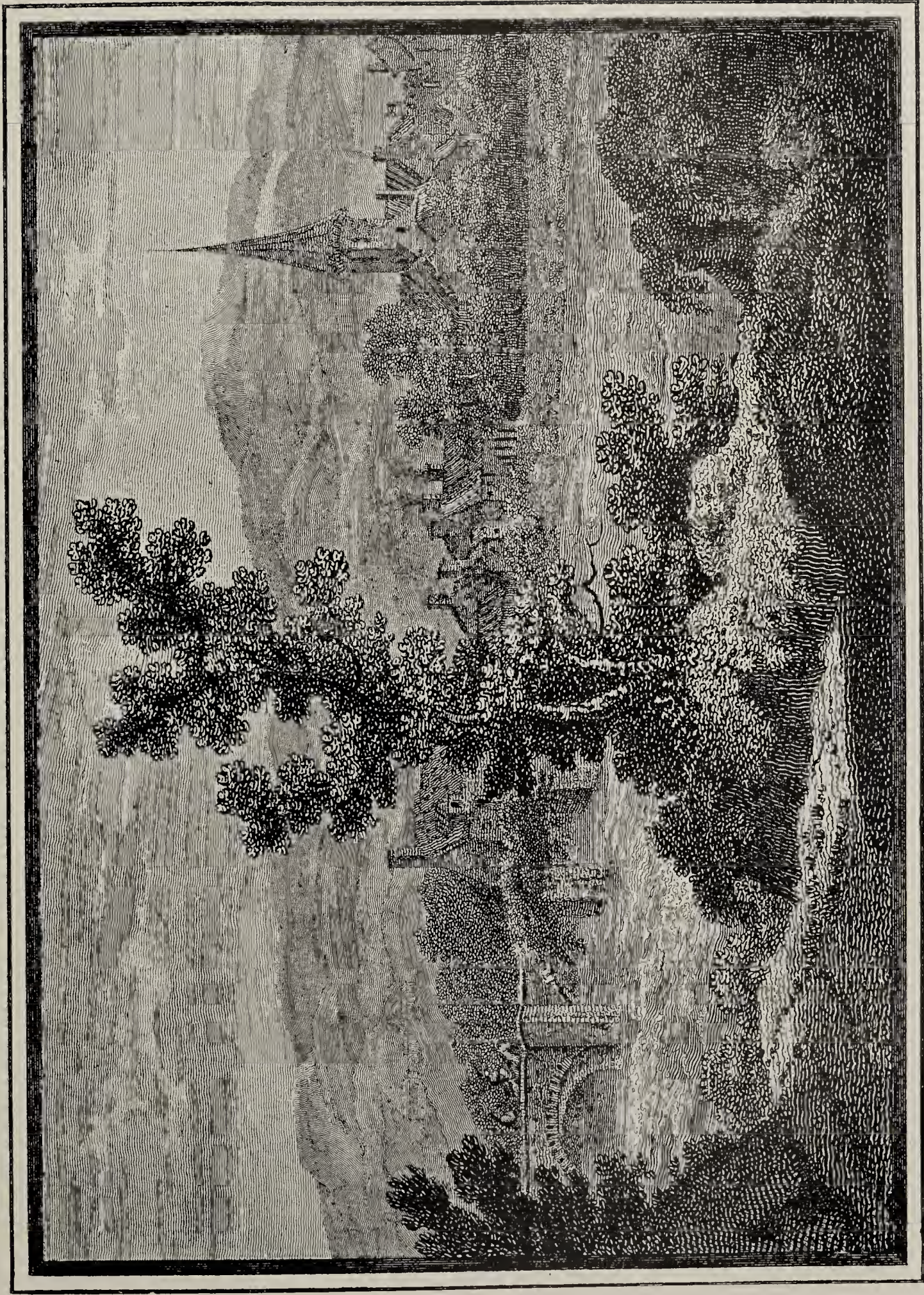
“St. Cynidr, the *brother* of Cattwg, according to Hugh Thomas (though George Owen Harry makes him a son of Caengar, and another MS. of Rhiengar, a daughter of Brychan), lived, as Cressy reports, a solitary life in the province of Glamorgan, in the same place where yet remains a chapel called St. Kenneth, and which country from him afterwards took the appellation of Sanghenith, or the lordship of St. Kenneth; although Camden, in his description of Glamorganshire, mentions West Gower as the place of his residence. For the history of his miracles, the pious legends of Capgrave must be consulted: he is said to have been buried at Glazbury in Radnorshire. The parish churches of Llangynidr and Aberescir<sup>1</sup> in Breconshire are dedicated to him; though Ecton calls St. Mary the patron saint of the latter.

“Wrgren, the second daughter of Brychan, married Iorwerth Hirflawdd, or Edward the tall and active, son of Tegonwy, son of Teon, son of Gwinaw Daufrieddawd, or the *brown double dreamer*, son of Hwyledg, son of Rhûn, son of Rhuddbaladr or red spear, son of Lary, son of Caswar Wledig, son of Beli mawr, or Beli the great, king of Britain. This Beli mawr was also the ancestor of Elistan Glodrydd, prince of Fferregs, and Justin ap Gwrgan, prince of Glamorgan.

“Marchell or Marcella, the third daughter, married Gwrhîr or Garhîr, or according to George Owen Harry, Wyn Hîrfardrweh, or Wyn of the long and bushy beard. Gwtlith (the fourth) is said to have lived at Llys-ronwy in Glamorganshire. Drynwin (the fifth) was the wife of Cynfach oer, or the cold, son of Meîrchîon cûl-galed, or Meirchion the slender and hardy, a chieftain in the North of England; she bore in her womb, according to the Trioedd or Triads, ‘the blessed burden of Urien Reged,’ king of Reged or Cumberland, and Eirddil his twin sister. This Urien was of high celebrity in the court of Arthur and a most valiant knight: he was afterwards elected to the sovereignty of Cumbria, and lived about the year 560. Many notices may be found of him in Evans’s specimens of Welsh poetry, as well as in the British Triads: he was the most famous of all the kings of Cumbria, being the Urbgen of the additions to Nennius, and in his court flourished the three great poets, Aneurin Gwawdrydd, Taliesin, and Llywarch hên. The first, in poems that are still extant, enumerates

<sup>1</sup> In 1490, Dewros ap Jedkin was collated by the bishop of St. David’s (patron pro hac vice) to the living of Aberescir, by the description of “*Ecclesia Sancti Kenedri de Aberescir.*” — *Bishop’s Register at Abergwili.*





CRICKHOWELL IN 1805

(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).







twelve pitch battles fought by Urien : that of Argoed Llwyfain or Elm-wood, is particularly described : it was fought with Flamddwyn or the Flame-bearer, as the Britons called Ida, the first Saxon king of Northumberland : Owen, the son of Urien, then commanded his father's forces, as we find from the following lines :

Attorelwis Flamddwyn fawr drybestawd,  
A ddodynt gyngwystlon ? a ydynt parawd ?  
Yr atebwys Owain ddwyrain flossawd,  
Ni ddodynt iddynt, nid ynt parawd ;  
A Chenau mab Coel byddai gymmwawg llew,  
Cyn y talai o wystl nebawd.

Literally translated thus (or at least as nearly as the two languages will permit) :

Says Flamddwyn the great, rejoicing in victory,  
Will they give hostages ? are they ready—  
Owen of the uplifted stroke, answered,  
They'll not give hostages ; they are not ready ;  
And Cenau the son of Coel will resemble an enraged lion,  
Before he gives hostages to any one.

Flush'd with conquest Flamddwyn said,  
Boastful at his army's head,  
Strive not to oppose the stream ;  
Redeem your lives, your lands redeem,  
Give me pledges, Flamddwyn cried ;  
"Never ;" Urien's son replied :  
Owen of the mighty stroke,  
Kindling as the hero spoke :  
Cenau, Coel's blooming heir,  
Caught the flame and grasp'd the spear :  
Shall Coel's issue, pledges give  
To the insulting foe and live ?  
Never such be Britons shame :  
Never till this mangled frame,  
Vanquish'd like a lion lie,  
Drench'd in blood and bleeding die.

"It appears by another poem of Aneurin Gwawdrydd, entitled *Marwnad Owain ap Urien Reged*, or an elegy upon the death of Owen the son of Urien Reged, that the boastful Flamddwyn fell by the hand of Owen in this very battle.

"Of Cyngar and Rhynhyder, the sixth and seventh daughters of Brychan, we have no account. Eleri or Melari, the eighth, was the mother of Saint David the archbishop, according to Cressy : he says Melari was another name for Nonnita. But our pedigrees make Eleri or rather Melari, wife to Caredig prince or regulus of Cardigan and mother to Xanthus, Sandde or Sant, father of Saint David. The English writers have confounded these persons by supposing Melari to be Nôn or Nonnita, the mother of Saint David ; whereas Nôn was the daughter of one Gynyr, who lived at a place called Caerganah in Minvia, as old writings inform us. Melari is said to have had ten grandchildren, who were all Saints. George Owen Harry makes Helen the daughter of Brychan, to be the wife of Caredig son of Cynedda Wledig and mother of *Sant* the father of Saint David, whom Giraldus Cambrensis calls *Sanctus*.

#### THE DIVISIONS AMONG THE BRITONS.

"Gwaler, or rather as George Owen Harry and the Jesus College MS. call her, Gwawr (the dawn or Aurora), ninth daughter of Brychan, was the wife of Elydr Llydanwyn, the younger brother of Cynfarch oer and mother to Llywarch hên. This prince (for such he was) had a considerable territory in the North of England ; he not only cultivated an acquaintance with the muses, but shone in arms, and was one of those who signalised themselves in an age remarkable in the history of Britain for terrible wars and devastations. Llywarch hên, however, took no part in the civil war, which brought on the catastrophe at Camlan so fatal to the Britons, in which Arthur fell in 542 : foreseeing the impending storm, he entered into a confederacy with his relation, Urien king of Cumberland and his valiant son Owen, to repel the incursions of the Saxons, who menaced the very existence of the British government in the North ; these persevering invaders having already possessed themselves of all that country to the East, called Deifr a Brynich or Deira and Bernicia. The latter was erected into a kingdom by Ida in the year 547, as the Saxon Chronicle and all our historians affirm, except Matthew of Westminster, who places that event in the following year. Upon the death of Ida (A.D. 560), Ella the son of Iffi assumed the title of king of Deira. Richard of Hexham, a Northumbrian writer in 1180, says that Deira extended from the Humber to the Tees, and Bernicia from the Tees to the Tweed : they were both afterwards united by Ethelfred, who formed from them the kingdom of Northumberland.



“Nothing contributed more towards the conquests of the Saxons than the divisions that reigned among the Britons. It appears from the antient writers of that country that they were much more ready to draw their swords upon one another than to employ them against the common enemy; they broke out into wars among themselves and rebellion against their kings, upon the slightest pretences and upon quarrels, the subjects of which appear at present to be trifling and almost ridiculous. Thus it was that the base intriguing Modred destroyed the noble Arthur; the jealousy of Morgant was the cause of the death of Urien; and a foolish squabble *about a lark's nest and a couple of dogs* occasioned the fatal battle of Arderydd in 577, between Æddan ap Gafran Fradog, or the treacherous, and Gwenddolau the son of Ceidiaw the son of Arthur, a descendant of Coel, on the one side and Rhydderch ap Tydwâl on the other. Llywarch hên lost twenty-four of his sons in these continued battles, and lived, as it is said, to the age of one hundred and fifty. His poems are plaintive and elegiac: several of them, particularly that in which he laments the death of these sons, have great merit. The English translation, however, of the latter by Mr Elliot, published in Jones's *Reliques of the Bards* in my opinion, far surpasses the original in poetic beauty.

See the warlike train advance,  
Skill'd to poise the pond'rous lance:  
Golden chains their breasts adorn;  
Sure for conquest were they born.  
Four and twice ten sons were mine.  
Used in battles front to shine:  
But low in dust my sons were laid,  
Not one remains his sire to aid.  
Hold! Oh Hold my brain thy seat!  
How doth my bosom's monarch beat;  
Cease thy throbs perturbed heart,  
Whether would thy stretch'd strings start?  
From frenzy dire and wild affright  
Keep my senses thro' this night!

[ANCIENT MONUMENT TO LLYWARCH'S MEMORY.]

“Llywarch hên died upon the banks of the Dee near Bala, in Merioneddshire, where is still a secluded spot called Pabell Llywarch hên, or Llywarch the old's tent or cot. Dr. Davies says that in his time there was an inscription to his memory, to be seen on the wall of the church, wherein it was said the venerable bard was interred; but the *beautifications* (we use a *Gothic* term to describe a *Gothic* act) of succeeding churchwardens have long obliterated all traces of it.

“Gwtfil, the tenth daughter of Brychan, was the wife of Cyngar (the son of Cynwawr, or rather of Cadell Deyrnlllyg) and mother of Brochwel Yscythrog or Scethrog. George Owen Harry calls her in one place Tanglwst, and in another Tywyl, the daughter of Cadell Deyrnlllyg and mother of Brochwel Yscythrog. Dr. Powel, in a note on Giraldus Cambrensis, calls her Tydvael the wife of Congen, the son of Cadell prince of Powis and mother of Brochwel, surnamed 'Scythroc, who slew Ethelfred king of the Northumbrians upon the river Dee, about the year 603. Hugh Thomas here charges Dr. Powel with gross errors, both in facts and chronology. In the first place, he says, it is evident Dr. Powel has mistaken one daughter of Brychan for another; in the next, Hugh Thomas affirms that Ethelfred king of Northumberland, so far from having been slain by Brochwel in the battle of the Dee, was victorious there and alive in 617, when he was slain by Redwald king of the East Angles<sup>1</sup>; and lastly, he tells us that it was extremely improbable that Brochwel Yscythrog, who was only the grandson of Brychan, should be living at the commencement of the seventh century. According to the old British Chronicle, the battle of Chester above alluded to, between Brochwel and Æthelfred, was fought in the year 593; some, with Dr. Powel, place it in 603, not considering that Bede expressly says that in this very year Æthelfred was engaged in another part of his dominions, repelling the incursions of the Dalreudini. The Saxon Chronicle carries it down to 607, and the Ulster Annals to 613, but at whichever of these periods it happened, Powel, it should seem, is incorrect; for it is universally agreed that the father of Brochwel, whether called Cyngar or Congen, married one of the daughters of Brychan Brecheiniog, whose death is generally placed in 450, though perhaps it was some few years subsequent to that time. His paternal grandfather Cadell, surnamed Derynlllyg, as Nennius records, was converted and baptised by St. Germanus; at which time he had nine sons, of whom Congen Cyngen, as his successor in the principality, was probably the eldest; all this must have happened before the year 448, for in that year St. Germanus died at Ravenna. Cyngen then, at this very latest, must have been born in the year 438, probably much earlier: this however forms a period of one hundred and sixty-five years between his birth and the year 603, when his son Brochwel fought with Æthelfred on the river Dee. But the Doctor (in his edition of his Welsh history, page

<sup>1</sup> In this account of the death of Æthelfred, Hugh Thomas is confirmed by the English historians.



23) extends his life fourteen years longer, and places him at the head of an army as late as the year 617; this (supposing his father to be thirty years of age when his son was born) would make Brochwel no less than one hundred and nineteen years of age, a circumstance we must allow extremely improbable. Hugh Thomas says there were three Brochwels: he says one Brochwel lived in the reign of Aurelius Ambrosius, to whom heralds after he had defeated Hengist (whose arms were a horse saliant) gave three horses' heads coup'd at the neck, and another Brochwel lived about the year 617, one hundred and fifty-six years after Brochwel Yscythrog.

## OTHER DAUGHTERS OF BRYCHAN.

"The name of the eleventh daughter in this MS. has been imperfectly transmitted to us: George Owen Harry calls her Gwenfrewi, and says she married Cadrod Calchfynidd, lord of Dunstable, Coleshill and Northampton, and proprietor of an extensive tract of chalk hills, from whence he took the name of Calchfynidd, or Cadrod of the chalk mountain. His grandson Tegvan was a Saint in the Romish calendar, and gave name to Llandegfan in Anglesea, where Rowland informs us he had once a cell. St. Tydecho had also his cloisters there, and is by some reckoned to be the patron saint of the place: St. Ælian, from whom Llanælian in Anglesea, was nephew of St. Tydecho.

"Of Eitech, the twelfth daughter, we know nothing further than that she resided at Towyn in Merioneddshire. George Owen Harry takes no notice of her.

"Tangwystl Tydvil lived in Glamorganshire. Llwyd says her name should be written Tangvistil, and thinks a word has been omitted in the copy from which he transcribed, or probably that Tydvil was only an Agnoman: she suffered martyrdom, and from her we have Merthyr Tydvil, a parish in Glamorganshire adjoining Breconshire on the South West. According to Owen's *Camb. Biog.* (1803), upon the authority of the Pantllwyd or Llansanor MS., she met her father, when he was an old man, attended by some of her brothers; whereupon they were beset by a party of Pagan Saxons, and Gwyddelian Ffichti, and she and her father and brother *Rhun Dremrudd* were murdered; but Nefydd the son of Rhûn, then a youth, exerted himself in raising the force of the country and afterwards put the enemy to flight.

"Goleuddydd (the light or dawning of day), Brychan's fourteenth daughter, married Tutwawl Bybyr, or Tutwawl the valiant, a prince of some territory in Scotland, according to Mr. Llwyd.

"The name of the fifteenth daughter is lost. This daughter was the mother of Aeddan, son of Gwawrean Fredawc. George Owen Harry informs us that Llian the daughter of Brychan was married to Gaffran the father of Aeddan Fradfawr, or Aiddan the traitor. Moses Williams, in a note upon the *Æræ Cambro-Britannicæ*, published in his edition of Humphrey Llwyd's *Commentariolum*, says that Gafran ap Aeddan Fradog, ap Gafran, ap Dyfnawl hên, was married to Llian the daughter of Brychan. This is the same Aeddan who was engaged with Gwenddolau in the battle of Arderydd, in which he was defeated and compelled to fly for safety to the Isle of Man.

"Gwen or Gwenllian was married to Llyr Merini lord of Gloucester, son to Meirchion cul-gadarn or cul-galed, and elder brother to Cynfarch-oer and Elydr Llydanwyn: she was mother to Cradoc Fraichfras, whom we shall soon see possessing Breconshire, and probably claiming under her. Llewelyn Offeriad says she was buried in Talgarth.

"Of Felii, Tybie, Emmrhaith and Rhyneiden, we have no account or tradition, save that Tybie was buried in Caermarthenshire, in a place called from her, Llanybie or Lladebie, and Rhyneiden at Cydweli in the same county.

"Cledy, the twenty-first daughter, lived in Emlyn in Caermarthenshire, where the genealogists of South Wales say a church was dedicated to her, called Clydeu or Clyday; but Brown Willis affirms Saint Christiolus to be the patron saint of that parish, who Rowland tells us was the son of Owen ap Ynyr, a nobleman of Armorica, and to whom Llangristiolus in Anglesea was dedicated. Owen makes Christiolus to be theon of Hywel Vychan, the son of Hywel, the son of Emyr or Ynyr of Amorica. Of the second Gwen, no further account is given in the MS. than that she died in the Isle of Anglesea.

## ST. ELUD'S CHAPEL AT SLWCH.

"Brychan's twenty-third daughter is called in different MSS. by the names of Elud, Alud, Elyned, and Aluned; which latter appellation the monkish writers, by a mistake easily accounted for, Latinised into Almeda or Almedha. She lived, as we are informed, at Ruthin in Glamorganshire (perhaps Roath or Ruder) and suffered martyrdom, according to Cressy's *Church History*, upon a hill near Brecknock, called Penginger. This hill is now generally known by the name of Slwch, though part of it still retains its old appellation. Penginger is a corruption of Pen cefn y gaer, the summit of the ridge of the fortification; from an old British camp, the remains of which are still visible. Not far



from the camp, on the north side, formerly stood this chapel, or as Giraldus Cambrensis calls it stately edifice; it is now completely ruined and can only be traced by tradition to a spot where a heap of stones and an aged yew tree,<sup>1</sup> with a well at its root, mark its site: it is about one mile, eastward of Brecon on the left hand side of the road leading from that place to a farmhouse called Slwch. In a parchment roll in the Augmentation Office containing a list of the possessions of the religious houses in the time of Henry the Eighth this structure is called the Chapel of *St. Alice* in the parish of Brecknock. It fell down in the latter end of the 17th century. According to Owen, another church was consecrated to her memory at Mold in Flintshire. She was undoubtedly the Almedha of Giraldus Cambrensis, who particularly notices the 'Basilica' upon Penginger. 'This devout virgin,' says he, 'rejecting the proposals of an earthly prince, who sought her in marriage, and espousing herself to the eternal king, consummated her life by a triumphant martyrdom. The day of her solemnity is celebrated every year on the first day of August.' He then proceeds to record the miracles of the Saint and the faith and religious frenzy of her votaries; upon which his annotator is a little waggish and hints that they might now and then have taken a cup too much.

#### ST. KEYNA PATRONESS OF LLANGENEY.

"Cenai, Ceneu, or Keyna is the patroness of Llangeney in Brecknockshire; of this sainted lady Cressy treats at large, and as her church, as well as the place of her habitation during the latter part of her life, are so well known and ascertained, she has some claim upon our attention as an old acquaintance and domiciliated countrywoman. I shall therefore make a short extract from the ponderous folio of this writer: 'She (St. Keyna, so he calls her) was of royal blood, being the daughter of Braganus prince of Brecknockshire. When she came to ripe years many nobles sought her in marriage, but she utterly refused that state; having consecrated her virginity to our Lord by a perpetual vow; for which cause she was afterwards by the Britons called *Keyn wiri*, that is, Keyna the virgin. At length she determined to forsake her country and find out some desert place, where she might attend to contemplation. Therefore, directing her journey beyond Severn, and there meeting a woody place, she made her request to the prince of that country that she might be permitted to serve God in that solitude. His answer was that he was very willing to grant her request, but that the place did so swarm with serpents that neither man or beast could inhabit it: but she constantly replied that her firm trust was in the name and assistance of Almighty God to drive all that poisonous brood out of that region. Hereupon the place was granted to the holy virgin, who presently prostrating herself to God, obtained of Him to change the serpents and vipers into stones, and to this day the stones in that region do resemble the windings of serpents through all the fields and villages, as if they had been framed so by the hand of the engraver.' Camden, who notices this story in his account of Somersetshire, says that the place is now called Keynsham, between Bath and Bristol, where abundance of that fossil, termed by the naturalists Cornu Ammonis, is frequently dug up: he is not quite an infidel, though not perfectly convinced of the truth of the origin and cause of these petrifications of serpents, but calls them miracles of sporting nature, and seems to express some degree of surprise at one which he saw dug up from a quarry near the place he has been describing, 'which (says he) represented a serpent rolled up into a *spire*; the head of it stuck out into the outward surface, and the end of the taylor terminated in the centre.' A similar miracle is related of St. Hilda, at Whitby in Yorkshire.

"But to return to our holy virgin: Cressy proceeds to tell us, upon the authority of Capgrave, that 'after many years spent in this solitary place, and the fame of her sanctity everywhere divulged, and many Oratories built by her, her nephew Saint Cadoc, performing a pilgrimage to the mount of St. Michael, met there with his blessed aunt St. Keyna; at whose sight, he being replenished with joy, and being desirous to bring her back to her own country, the inhabitants of that region would not permit him; but afterwards by the admonition of an angel, the holy maid returned to the place of her nativity, where, on the top of a hillock, seated at the foot of a high mountain, she made a little habitation for herself, and by her prayers to God obtained a spring there to flow out of the earth, which, by the merits of the holy virgin, affordeth health to divers infirmities.' She is said to have departed this life on the eighth day of the Ides of October, A.D. 490, and to have been buried in her own Oratory by her nephew St. Cadoc. Some time previous to her death, we are told, she had a prospect of her eternal happiness in a future world in a vision; being ministered to and comforted by angels. To her nephew St. Cadoc she thus prophesied: 'This is the place above all others beloved by me; here my memory shall be perpetuated; this place I will often visit in spirit, if it may be permitted me, and I am assured it shall be permitted me, because our Lord hath granted me this place as a certain inheritance. The time will come when this place shall be inhabited by a sinful

<sup>1</sup> The yew tree disappeared in the year 1906, and only the well, or spring, now remains to mark the spot.



people, which, notwithstanding, I will violently root out of this seat. *My tombe shall lye a long time unknown untill the coming of other people*, whom by my prayers I shall bring hither; them will I protect and defend, and in this place shall the name of the Lord be blessed for ever.' These good strangers are not yet arrived, as her tomb has not hitherto been discovered; though the well of St. Ceneu is known and the situation of her Oratory may be traced, but a description of them is reserved to that part of this work which relates to the parochial history of the county.

## BRYCHAN'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

"Dwynwen, the youngest daughter of Brychan, according to the MS. in the British Museum, though omitted by Llewelyn Offeiriad, was a Saint of such celebrity that the shade of David ap Gwilym imperiously requires us to notice her, as some atonement for the silence of Llewelyn the priest, who for this instance of his inattention will be consigned to eternal infamy, unless he avails himself of the benefit of clergy. A church, from her called Llanddwyn, was built and dedicated to the Saint in the Isle of Anglesea in the year of Christ 590; she is the Welsh Venus or Goddess of Love. 'Dwynwen Santes, Duwies y cariad, merch Brychan!' (holy Dwynwen, Goddess of Love, daughter of Brychan), says David ap Gwilym. Her shrine was much resorted to by desponding swains and love-sick maidens who, with many a suppliant offering, entreated her propitious smiles and solicited her intercessions and good offices with the objects of their affections.

These garlands ever green and ever fair,  
With vows were off'rd and with solemn pray'r.  
A thousand altars in her temple smok'd;  
A thousand bleeding hearts her pow'r invok'd.

"The bard of Glamorganshire, David ap Gwilym, has a poem or invocation to Dwynwen, which has been translated by Owen and is inserted in Jones's second volume of the *Reliques of the Welsh Bards*.

## ANOTHER LIST OF BRYCHAN'S CHILDREN.

"Before we return to the heroes of the race of Brychan, it may perhaps be proper that we should briefly notice the list of his children given in the *Myfyrian Archaeology*. This catalogue differs considerably, both in the names and number, from those we have followed, and is entitled "Bonedd y Saint, neu achau Saint ynis Prydain," i.e., the Genealogy of the Saints, or the Pedigree of the Saints of the Island of Britain. It is said to be a collection or selection from many old MSS. by Lewis Morris, in the year 1760. The names of the sons of Brychan given in this publication, from the authorities there shortly recapitulated, were: 1, Cynawc; 2, Cledwyn; 3, Dingad; 4, Arthen; 5, Cyffefyr; 6, Rhain; 7, Dyfnan; 8, Gerwyn; 9, Cadawc; 10, Mathaiarn; 11, Pascen; 12, Neffe; 13, Pabiali; 14, Llecheu; 15, Cynbryd; 16, Cynfran; 17, Hychan; 18, Dyfrie; 19, Cynin; 20, Docfan; 21, Rhawin; 22, Rhûn; 23, Cledawc; and 24, Cayan.—The daughters: 1, Gwladis; 2, Arianwen; 3, Tanglwst; 4, Mechell; 5, Nevin; 6, Gwawr; 7, Gwrgon; 8, Eleri; 9, Llian; 10, Nefydd; 11, Rhiengar; 12, Goleud-dydd; 13, Gwenddydd; 14, Tydieu; 15, Elined; 16, Ceindrych; 17, Gwen; 18, Cenedlon; 19, Cymorth; 20, Cledia; 21, Dwynwen; 22, Ceinwen; 23, Tydfil; 24, Enfail; 25, Hawystl; and 26, Tybie; *in all, fifty children*.

## THE KINGDOM OF BRECKNOCK IN BRYCHAN'S TIME.

"From the funerals of these Saints, we return to the company of the two eldest legitimate sons of Brychan, between whom the little kingdom of Brecknock was again divided into two districts, called Brecheiniog and Cwmwd, afterwards Cwmwd Cantref-Selyff; the rulers over both of which provinces styled themselves brenhinoedd or reguli. Genealogists differ as to the seniority of these two sons. The pedigrees in the British Museum make Clydwyn the eldest, while that of Llewelyn Offeiriad, as well as the MS. legend in the Cottonian library, calls Drem, Drem-rudd or Rhain, the eldest, and Clydwyn the next; the latter of whom had two sons, Clydawc and Pedita. Both became Saints, and with them his line ends according to this MS. It is probable that the Oxford document is correct, notwithstanding the majority are in favour of Clydwyn; for we hear nothing of his descendants, while we find those of Drem possessing the largest, richest, and most fertile part of the country, for centuries after him, and even to the time when they were ousted by the Norman conquerors, or until they came by intermarriage to the posterity of Cradoc Fraich-fras.

"The line of boundary, which I conceive divided the Cwmwd or Cwmwd-Cantref-Selyff, from what would now be called the remainder of Brecknockshire, commenced on the river Wye on the North; thence along the Western confines or boundary of Crickadarn; afterwards to Gwenddwr; then in a direction from North East to South West, to the head of the river Brân, leaving Merthyr Cynog, Aberescir<sup>1</sup>, and of course Brecknock to the East, in the kingdom or district of the Cwmwd; from

<sup>1</sup> Aberescir was considered as a mesne lordship under that of Cantref Selyff so late as the year 1608.



whence it turned Southward, leaving Llanfrynach (which we find as far down as the beginning of the eighteenth century in the possession of the descendants of Drem) and afterwards Cantreff, in the same division as Brecknock. From the head of the Brân, after crossing the Usk, this line ran in the same direction, and traced the present boundary between the hundreds of Devynnock and Penkelley, and ended on the confines of Glamorganshire. If this was the case, it is not improbable that the chief town or residence of the reguli of Brecknock, prior to Brychan, was at Trecastle and Llywel; the latter of which places signifies the resort or resting place of the army. This is the only reason we can assign for their being ever since united and appurtenant to the town of Brecknock; to which Bernard Newmarch at the time of its erection attached all the privileges, and annexed the possessions of the old town of Caerfan. Indeed, the legend of Brychan seems to confirm this opinion, for though it by no means proves that there was no such town as Benni, in the days of Tewdrig (in fact we know there was one at that place long prior to his time), yet it mentions the residence of Brychan at Benni upon his arrival from Ireland as an historical fact deserving of notice: from which it may be inferred, without any great stretch of conjecture, that he was the first who made that place the metropolis of his kingdom. We are likewise told in the same MS. that Tewdrig and his court, to avoid a pestilence, removed to Bryn-gwin, near Llanfaes, which if he lived at Benni would not have answered his purpose; the distance from thence to Llanfaes not being much above two miles, whereas Trecastle is near ten miles off, and the difference of climate between the two places is very material and may be easily perceived.

#### RHAIN, OR DREM, AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

“We must not expect to hear much, if anything, of the actions and exploits of Rhain or Drem at this distance of time; but I conceive, as the MS. legend above referred to asserts, that he was buried at Llandevaillog near Brecon, and that the stone mentioned in Gough’s Camden and supposed to cover the remains of Brochwel Yscythrog, was meant to commemorate the interment of Rhain.

“Of his descendants we have barely the names, until we come to Einon the son of Selyff; from whom the Cwmwd was called Cantreff-Selyff, and of him all we know is, that he had one only child, a daughter named Elinor, who inter-marrying with Maenarch ap Driffin, united the lines of Brychan and Cradoc, and the two districts into which Brecknock had been divided since his death, into one kingdom and government. The lives and exploits of these little chieftains or *kinglings* are now hid in impenetrable darkness; a darkness which there is not the smallest prospect or hope of dispelling, further than that from the information of the *Concilia* by Sir Henry Spelman, we learn, that at a Synod held at Llandaff by Gwrvan, the tenth bishop of that diocese (A.D. 897, or as Llewelyn Offeiriad, 895), Tydyr the son of Rhain or Rain, *king of Brecknock*, was excommunicated for homicide and perjury, in having slain Elgistl the son of Awst or Augustus, *king of Brecknock*, his first cousin, contrary to his oath, and that he was compelled to make his peace with the church by a considerable donation to the see of Llandaff. Here we see that both these chieftains are called kings of Brecknock, although their territory was certainly the Cwmwd only. Brecheinog (the other division) was then under the government of a descendant of Cradoc Fraich-fras. We also hear, that at an early period, this Awst and his sons Eluid and Rhiwallon, probably as a compensation for a similar offence, and from motives *equally pious*, gave to the same bishoprick in the time of Eudaf or Oudoceus, the whole territory of Ilancors or Llangorse, (called by bishop Godwin, incorrectly, Llancorran), and by another grant Llangurvael; another document, preserved in the Monasticon, states, that Tudor and his son Elyssed, Elissai or Elijah, king of Brecknock, were forced into a composition for an affront offered to Lybiau, bishop of Llandaff, by a grant of the extensive vill of Llanvihangel-trefcerrian to the same church. The nature of this affront was somewhat singular. It seems that the prince was accused of leaving the prelate alone, in his monastery at Llangorse; having first deprived him of his dinner by force of arms. The angry bishop and his family next day left the place, having first hurled a curse and perpetual anathema at the head of the royal freebooter, for his impious robbery and the rudeness of his conduct, and afterwards he excommunicated him in a full synod of his clergy. For some time the bishop was inexorable; but at length, through the mediation of Lunverth or Lunverd, bishop of Saint David’s, he was restored into the pale of the church and his atonement accepted. This vill is now not known, but it must have been part of Llanvihangel-Cwmdu in Breconshire, or Llanvihangel-Crucorney in Monmouthshire; it is thus described in the ‘grant, ‘the bounder of the said land is from the highway on the South by the thorn bush; from thence to the river Tanguel, which is from the North, and from thence through a river to the East, as far as the well of Chenea; afterwards from the well of Chenea, through the dry valley which leads upwards, as far as the highway which is on the South, where it began.’ The name of Llanvihangel Tricornel, Crucornel, or Crucorney, induces one to suppose this parish to have been the tract granted by Tudor; on the other hand, if by the river Tanguel, the Rhaingoll and the well of Chenea, St. Ceneu’s well, are meant, the boundary



here described seems to fix the granted tract to be Llanvihangel-Cwmdu, formerly perhaps called Llanvihangel-tref-y-caerau, from the number of fortifications included in it; and if so, all the country from thence to the Grwyney was conveyed by this document.

“Asserius Menevensis informs us that Elised the son of Tewdwr, who joined in and consented to this gift of his father, being attacked by the sons of Rodri mawr, or Roderick the great, willingly submitted to the government of Alfred. The authority of such an author, living at the time, though *principally in the court of Alfred*, cannot be denied; but the supremacy of the Saxon monarchs must have continued for a very short period; probably no longer than during some squabble between the little king of Brecknock and his natural lord paramount, Cadell prince of South Wales.

#### CLYDAWN AND HIS SON CLYDAWC.

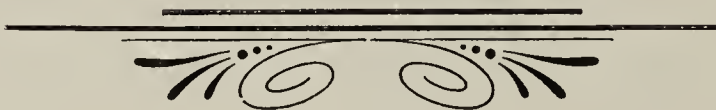
“Clydawn succeeded his father in the government of the Western and most mountainous part of Breconshire; his name is written variously in different MSS Clytgwyn, Clewin, and Kli cwn, and he is, as before observed, said to be the eldest legitimate son of Brychan. It appears by the books of Bodeulwyn in Anglesea, in the possession of Evan John Wyn and of Dr. Thomas Williams (both written about the year 1578, and referred to in the *Bonedd y Saint*) that Clydwyn was a warlike prince and conquered all South Wales. With this concise history of his life and exploits we must now be satisfied, and proceed to his son Clydawc, Clitanc, Cledawc, who not having his father's talents or fondness for fighting, but being (as Cressy says) a man of peaceful and religious character, was for his piety inrolled among the list of British Saints. According to *Bonedd y Saint* he was buried at “Caer Gledawc yn Lloegr,” or Clodock Camp in England; though, why this place should be thus described, it is difficult to say, inasmuch as the parish of Clodock is upon the borders of Wales and was formerly part of the principality. ‘Our martyrology (says Cressy) among other saints of his time, commemorates the death and martyrdom of a king of Brecknock in South Wales, of the name of Clitanc or Clintanc, on the nineteenth day of August, in the year of Grace 492; concerning whom we hear that he was a prince very observant of peace and justice among his subjects, and that in the end he became a martyr (the natural consequence of such conduct in those days) and was adorned with a celestial crown for his virtues and merits, and particularly his chastity and purity from carnal delectations; he was murdered by treason of a certain impious wretch whose name is perished with him.’

“From this brief display of the virtues and merits of Clydawc, it is soon seen that he was not likely to strew the land with heroes, or to deck the skies with the same galaxy of Saints as his grandfather; he is therefore followed in the government of his kingdom by his brother, whom the MSS. in the Museum have named Neubedd, who is (as we apprehend) the same person as Llewelyn Offeiriad calls Pedita Sant, and who died without issue, according to that pedigree. His almost heremital attention to the duties of religion, makes it likely that he seldom interfered with the affairs of this world; consequently his little kingdom or province was open to the incursions of any rapacious freebooter or impious chieftain who chose to attack it. Dyfnwal, who is placed as the successor of Tydyr ap Neubedd, seems to have been a person of this description, but there appears to be some confusion here, as has been before observed; the MSS. having mistaken Tydyr ap Neubedd, who is said to have lived at Crwccas near Brecknock, for Tydyr ap Teithwalch the benefactor to the church at Llandaff, who lived many ages prior to this time. Some call Dyfnwal a Pictish or Caledonian prince, who wholly exterminated the race of Clydwyn and assumed the sovereignty; if this account is correct, one or both of the holy cousins of Cradoc Fraich-fras, seeing their subjects plundered and harrassed by a motley horde of barbarians, making continual irruptions from England, may, in conjunction with the descendants of Drem-Dremrudd, have requested his assistance to drive the successful invader from their territories and promised him a division of Brecknockshire as his reward.

“There are various reasons for supposing this to have been the case. We have seen that according to Llewelyn Offeiriad, upon the death of the two brothers just named, the descent of Brychan in their line ended. Cradoc, though not what would now be called *the heir at law* to his cousin's property, was maternally as nearly related in blood as any other person, and he from his valour, was most likely in those boisterous times to defend and protect his subjects, when possession was acquired. According to the Harleian papers, there were five reguli from Brychan to Dyfnwal, all of whom must have died in the life time of Cradoc, and before the time assigned for his conquest of Brecknockshire, or rather the Western or mountainous part of that country; for we see the race of



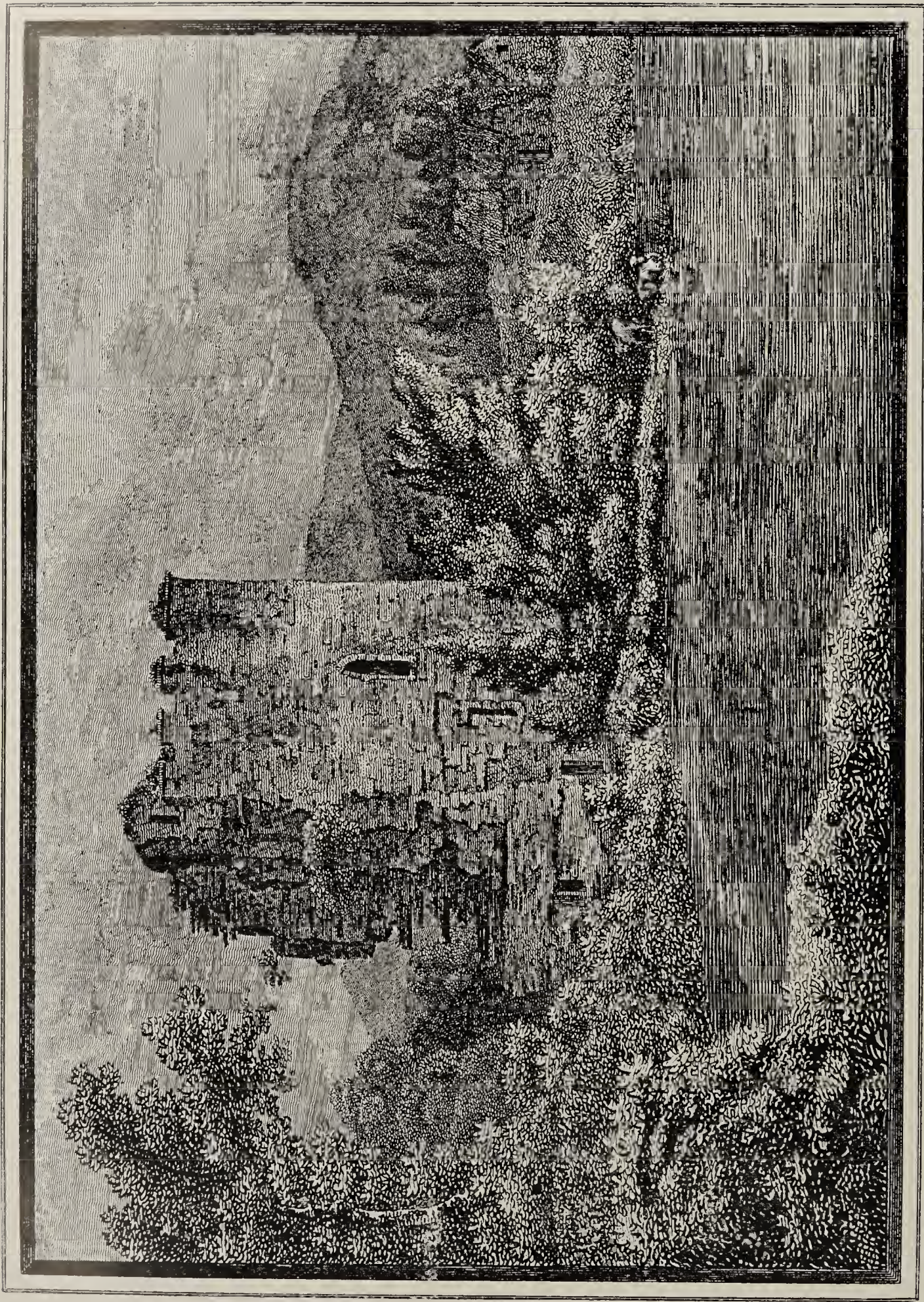
Drem or Rhain retaining their possessions, at a time when it has been erroneously supposed an enemy was at their doors, and when he must even have marched through the heart of their territories to attack a neighbour, with whom they were connected and endeared by an identity of language, of interest, of habits, and of disposition. Many arguments might be adduced to prove that Cradoc Fraich-fras was brought into Breconshire by the general consent, if not by the invitation of the inhabitants, at that time suffering under the oppression of an usurper, whose defeat about the latter end of the sixth century, conferred upon his competitor the government of that part of the country over which he ruled; but as the elucidation of this question is not now absolutely required, and as the interests of his descendants is not likely to be injured or benefited by its discussion at this present moment, it may as well be permitted to sleep, and therefore without further examination of his right we shall proceed to introduce him for a few minutes to the reader's acquaintance."











CRICKHOWELL CASTLE IN 1805

*(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).*



## CHAPTER IV.

From Cradoc Fraich-fras, to the Conquest of Brecknockshire by Bernard Newmarch in 1092.

“CRADOC Fraich-fras, or Cradoc of the mighty arm, was, as we have just seen, a grandson of Brychan, and in right of his father, lord of Gloucester, a contemporary with king Arthur, one of the knights of his round table and lord keeper of y Castell dolurus, or *the dolorous tower*. To relieve the reader from any impression which this romantic description may produce, and to chase away the imaginary giants and dragons which perchance may present themselves to his mind's eye it is necessary to be observed here, that in plain English this dolorous tower was nothing more than a dungeon, where prisoners of war or traitors to the state were confined, and our great hero was neither greater or less than the chief gaoler or head turnkey. This officer has been since denominated constable of the keep. In antient MSS. we hear of another Cradoc Fraich-fras, who was styled earl of Hereford, and lived in the reign of Hywel Dda; he was a son of Ceiliog Mwynngrydd and ancestor of Tydyr Trevor: of this earl, though considerably later in point of time, we know nothing but his name. Upon the history of the hero of Brecknock, the romantic age in which he lived, and the wonderful stories recorded of him by romancers of more modern date, have certainly stamped so strongly the appearance of fable, that serious persons are apt to be incredulous, and some indeed among writers of repute, have more than doubted his existence in the present character. Camden, for instance, as well as Evans in his *Drych prif oesoedd* seem to think that Caradaue Vrichvras (as the former calls him) was the celebrated Caractacus who so gallantly opposed Ostorius; and Lewis in his *Antient History of Britain*, supporting this opinion, asserts, that the books of pedigrees have erroneously brought him down six descents too low, affirming him to have been a knight of king Arthur's court.

### WIFE AND FAMILY OF CRADOC FRAICH-FRAS.

“The wife of Cradoc Fraich-fras was Tegau Eurfron, a name the definition of which we are at a loss to account for. If all the pedigrees were not against us, we should have conceived it ought to be written, Teg ei Fron or Fairbosom; she is said to be the daughter of king Pelynor (perhaps Pyll mawr) and was celebrated by the bards as one of the *three* chaste women of Britain, who possessed three valuable ornaments, of which she alone was reputed worthy: her knife, her golden goblet, and her mantle; the last was certainly with great propriety esteemed as one of the thirteen curiosities of the island of Britain. It would not fit, nor could it be worn by any but a chaste woman!!! Perey, in his *Reliques of Antient Poetry*, has a long ballad or tale in rhyme upon this subject, which has little to recommend it besides its antiquity. Cradoc had by this wife six sons, Cawrdaf, Hyfaidd, Cleddfrudd or rather Cleddeu-rudd (red sword), St. Cadfareh or Cadferth, St. Tangwn, and St. Maethlu or St. Amaeth'u. Hyfaidd is said to have been lord of Radnor, from him called Maes Hyfaidd, now written and pronounced Maesyfed or Maesyved, according to the English way of spelling. Lewis, in his *Antient History of Britain*, informs us, that ‘Radnor is called Maes Hyvaidd from a worthy lord thereof, called by Taliesin, Hyvaidd hwyf ac Hwyst, that is, Hyvaidd the bold and active, who lived in the time of Ida or Flamddwyn, which Hyvaidd, with Urien Reged and Ceneu the son of Coel Godebog, had bloody wars with the said Ida.’ In a marginal note it is said ‘some called him Hyvaidd henllyn<sup>1</sup>, i.e., of the old pool’; and it is further added, ‘Camden is mistaken in calling Old Radnor, Maesyved, which for a thousand years past had no other name than Penycraig, or the head of the rock.’ A warrior of the name of Hyfaidd hir, or the tall, is celebrated by Aneurin in his Gododin: Hyfaidd hir ermygir tra fo Cerddawr—(The praises of Hyfaidd the tall shall be sung while a bard exists).

“Owen says he was the son of Bleiddig or Lupus, who accompanied Germanus into Britain. Hyfaidd was certainly no uncommon name among the antient Britons: but the hero of Aneurin and Taliesin was most probably the son of Cradoc Fraich-fras, who as regulus of Fferregs and part of Brecknockshire, was enabled to make a suitable provision for his offspring.

<sup>1</sup> Henllyn, a pool in the Wye at Glanwye is now called Llynhen, and may be this place.



“Gwgan and Cleddeu-rudd sleep with the Capulets; St. Cadfarch, or Cadverth, at Abereirch; St. Tangwn, at Llangoed, which is dedicated to him; and St. Amaethlu at Carnedd fawr or the great Barrow: both the two last places are in the isle of Anglesea.

“Cawrda, Cowrda, or Cawrdaf,<sup>1</sup> the eldest son of Cradoc, succeeded his father in the kingdoms or lordships of Fferregs and Brecknock; in the British Triads he is styled one of the three prime youths of Britain, and in an antient MS. *penes* Mr. John Lewis<sup>2</sup> of Lanwenny, quoted by Hugh Thomas,<sup>3</sup> he is called ‘one of the seven blessed first cousins of Britain!!!’ He left issue Caw Cadarch, Cathen, Clydawc, and Medrod; Clydawc was the father of *Gwynawc*, the father of Collen, to whom Llangollen in Denbighshire (where he was buried) is dedicated. In the church was formerly a recumbent figure in alabaster of a churchman, which was vulgarly called St. Collen. ‘He has left behind him (says Mr Pennant) a legend worthy of the Alcoran itself.’ What the particulars of the marvel are, we have not been able to learn: his name is not in Cressy’s book, nor is that of his Welsh uncle St. Dyfnog, the son of Medrod, noticed in that publication. It is by no means improbable that the church of Devynnock, in Brecknockshire, is consecrated to the memory of the latter Saint notwithstanding the parish wake was held in honour of St. Cynog; a parallel case will be found in Llangeney, where the feast is upon Gwyl Gyrig, though the old church was without doubt St. Ceneu’s. Pennant speaks of Ffynnon Dyfnog in the neighbourhood of Denbigh: ‘it is a fine spring, dedicated to St. Dyfnog, one of our long pedigreed Saints;’ it was formerly resorted to by many votaries. The fountain, he says, is inclosed in an angular wall, decorated with small human figures, and just before them is the well for the use of the pious bathers.

“To Cawrdaf succeeded his son, who was followed by a long line of descendants, whose exploits have neither been preserved by tradition or celebrated by history. The eldest son of Caw was Gloyw, whose son was Hoyw, who governed Fferregs about the year of Christ 640. After Hoyw came his son Cynfarch, who lived about 680; to him again succeeded Cyndeg ap Cynfarch, who was contemporary with Cadwaladr Fendiged or the blessed, with whom closed the imperial dignity of Britain, in the year 703, that prince having in the weakness of superstition and fanaticism abdicated his throne, and taken shelter at Rome.

#### GREAT BATTLE AT LLANGATTOCK, CRICKHOWELL.

“Teithwalch the son of Cyndeg, upon the death of his father, assumed the government of Fferregs and Brycheiniog, which however he was not long able to preserve entire, or at least he was not completely successful in driving an invading enemy out of his territories. Rodri Molwynog was at this time prince of North Wales, during whose reign the Mercian prince Ethelbald, king of Mercia, tempted by the appearance of the fertile plains of Fferregs, invaded that country and proceeded with devastation in his train, through Brecheiniog and the Cwmwd, even to the very borders of upper Gwent; where being opposed by the Welsh, a bloody battle ensued, at a place called Carno,<sup>4</sup> in the parish of Llangattock, near Crickhowell, in Breconshire: but though the Saxons received a check here, and much blood was shed on both sides, the victory was doubtful. It seems however to have prevented the enemy from penetrating further into the country at this time, and to have compelled him to retrace his route, to retire into Herefordshire, and afterwards to return to his own dominions. Several battles followed between the Britons and Saxons in the country then called Fferregs, in one of which the former, it is said, lost a distinguished chieftain, named Dyfnwal ap Tydyr.

“Teithwalch was succeeded by his son Tegyd, who lived during the reign of Cynan Tyndaethwy, prince of North Wales. The ambitious designs of Mercia, which indeed apparently slumbered but

<sup>1</sup> Quære, if Llanwrda in Carmarthenshire is not derived from him, and whether it is not a corruption of Llangawrdaf.

<sup>2</sup> An ancestor of the late Mr. Lewis of Harpton in Radnorshire. The parish of Llanvihangel nant melan in that

county, was formerly called Llanwenny. Lewis, who wrote the antient history of Britain was of this family: he was a barrister, and practiced in the court of the president and council of the marches of Wales.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. Coll. No. 6832.

<sup>4</sup> Tradition has established this hill as the place where the battle was fought, otherwise Carno is by no means sufficient to ascertain its locality; for we find several mountains of this name, both in North and South Wales, in Cradoc of Llancarvan’s History of Wales. By Carn or Carnedd, Carno, Carnau or Carneddau, is meant a heap or heaps of stones. The Carneddau (says Owen in his dictionary) and the tumuli of earth (or stones) where the common monuments hat the antient Britons erected in honour of their great men; which of the two kind was probably determined by the soil or stratum of the country in which they are found, being stony or otherwise: these modes of interment continued in use many ages after the introduction of Christianity, but when the custom of burying in churches and church-yards became general, they were not only disused but condemned, as fit only for great criminals. When the Carnedd was considered as the honourable tomb of a warrior, every passenger threw his additional stone out of reverence to his memory. When this heap came to be disgraced, by being the mark where the guilty was laid, the same custom still continued, but now in token of detestation. These early heaps then, having been generally raised to the memory of those warriors who fell in battle, frequently gave names to spots, which before were not distinguished by any particular appellation; as, Mynydd y Carno or rather Carnau, the hill or mountain of barrows or tumuli.



never slept, were now renewed with increased violence under Offa, who entered heartily into the depre-  
dating schemes of his predecessor Ethelbald. Scarcely a day passed without some attempts to harass  
the unfortunate *Ferlisians*. The Welsh finding that forbearance on their part only served to increase  
the confidence and invite the attacks of the enemy, resolved at length upon a bloody retaliation.  
Hitherto their system had been merely defensive, but now rising *en masse*, they suddenly entered  
Mercia, and having laid waste all before them, obliged the enemy, after a dreadful carnage, to retreat  
beyond the Severn, and returned home laden with plunder and spoils. 'Fierce Offa and the Saxons  
fled before them.'

"Encouraged by this success, and animated with the hopes of further booty, they repeated their  
incursions and compelled their cruel and inveterate enemy to tremble in his turn. Offa, being thus  
not only baffled in his designs against Fferregs, but alarmed for the safety of his kingdom, called in  
the assistance of other Saxon princes, and with a strongly confederated army entered Wales. The  
Britons being far outnumbered by the invader, retired to the mountains upon their approach, driving  
before them their cattle and carrying with them their effects; so that the Saxons were obliged to  
retreat into England, probably for want of provisions, though the cause is not expressly assigned by  
historians.

## KING OFFA'S DYKE.

"In order to curb the restless spirit of the Britons, as he was pleased to term it, Offa during this  
expedition placed a strong colony of Saxons in Fferregs, who in their own defence were compelled to  
resist and prevent the incursions of the inhabitants of the principality into the English borders; and  
the better to ascertain the boundary of the two countries, he formed the well known dyke which bears  
his name, and which, even as late as the reign of Edward the Confessor, was regarded as the dis-  
criminating line between England and Wales; for by a law of Earl Harold it was ordained, that if  
any Welshman coming into England without license, should be taken on that side of Offa's dyke, his  
right hand should be cut off by the king's officer. It extended from Flintshire in North Wales, to the  
mouth of the river Wye near Chepstow, or as some say, Tydenham passage in Gloucestershire. The  
tradition of the inhabitants of Ystradyw and the adjacent part of Monmouthshire, carries it over one  
side of the Sugar Loaf; if so, Penclawdd, or the head of the ditch, in Monmouthshire was upon  
Offa's Dyke, but Mr Coxe thinks it to have been the site of an old Roman road. The boundary  
just mentioned most probably took a more Eastern direction, through Herefordshire and Monmouth-  
shire. Pennant observes, that in all parts, the ditch is on the Welsh side, and that there are a great  
number of artificial mounds, the sites of small forts, in many places along its course: these were  
garrisoned and intended for the same purpose as the tower in the famous Chinese wall, to watch the  
motions of the neighbours and to repel hostile incursions. The remains of this useless work of labour  
and expence are very visible in several places in North Wales, and on a hill three miles West of  
Knighton in Radnorshire, through which town, called Tref y clawdd commonly Treclodd, or the town  
of the ditch, it evidently passed; but from thence Southward it can only be traced by conjecture.  
This encroachment upon their limits considerably distressed the Welsh upon the borders, and com-  
pelled the princes of Powis to remove the seat of government to Marthrafael. Hereford, then called  
Fferregs, and the town, Caerffawydd, or Beech-chester, was no longer subject to the reguli of Fferregs,  
and Hugh Thomas<sup>1</sup> says, that 'from hence forwards their capitol was transferred to Brecknock,'  
meaning, we presume, some place in the county of Brecknock; as it does not appear that the town was  
built until more than three centuries after this time.

## GREAT DEFEAT OF THE SAXONS.

"Tangwydd ap Tegyd succeeded only to the possession of that part of Fferregs which is now called  
Radnorshire, to a small part of Montgomeryshire, and to that portion of Brecknockshire which was  
under his father's government. The names of the cantrefydd or hundreds, of which this territory was  
composed, in the map now remaining of it, are so disfigured by mistakes in spelling, as to become  
unintelligible even to a Welsh reader, and would appear particularly uncouth to an English eye. The  
Britons thus circumscribed by boundaries, erected by the power and protected by the forces of their  
adversary, and driven to their mountains, where they were compelled to conceal themselves, smothered  
for some time their vexation and apparently forgot their injuries. Offa vainly flattered himself that  
everything was secure, but the feelings of a brave people, determined to live free or die courageously,  
are not easily suppressed; they only wore the mask of indifference, while in reality they plotted the  
destruction of the obnoxious boundary and the avengement of their undeserved oppressions: for when  
Offa was lulled into a fancied safety and negligent inactivity, unsuspecting of impending danger, and

<sup>1</sup> MS. Rawl 1220. Bodl. Lib. 7.



perhaps despising the efforts of a vanquished and, as he supposed, desponding foe, they suddenly arose and having levelled the rampart and filled the ditch, attacked the unprepared Heptarch in his very entrenchments, whence he escaped not without some difficulty. Offa was at this time encamped at a place in Herefordshire, now called Sutton Walls, or Sutton Wallia, about three miles North of Hereford; it was then the royal residence of the Saxon, and was situate on the top of a hill, the summit of which is level, and estimated to contain about thirty acres of land, fenced round with a continued rampart of earth, except on the North and South sides, where there seems to have been roads into it. In the middle of this area is a hollow or a low place, which the people in the neighbourhood now call the cellar, and sometimes Offa's cellar: a few years ago, in digging here a silver ring was found of antique form. Here the dark and villainous murder of Ethelbert king of the East Angles was contrived and executed by Offa and his infamous queen, Quendreda or Quendrida;

Sutton acres drench'd with royal blood  
Of Ethelbert, when to th' unhallowed feast  
Of Mercian Offa he invited came,  
To treat of spousals; long connubial joys  
He promised to himself, allured by fair  
Elfrida's beauty, but deluded died  
In height of hopes: Oh hardest fate to fall  
By shew of friendship and pretended love.

#### THE CHARACTER OF KING OFFA.

Offa, indeed, was a strange mixture of great talents and valour with most infamous vices and unrelenting ferocity. William of Malmsbury thus describes him: 'King Offa was a man of mighty courage and magnanimity, who resolutely undertook whatever he once conceived in his mind; he reigned thirty-nine years. When I consider his exploits, which were various in their nature and of different kinds, I am in doubt whether I should reckon him among the good or evil kings, as there was such an interchangeable vicissitude in him of virtues and vices: he was like Proteus, his form and features ever changing.' Cressy calls him, a noble and illustrious king, and because he made a pilgrimage to Rome and founded the monastery of St. Alban's, he conceals most, and forgives him the remainder of his crimes.

"Mortified beyond measure at his late discomfiture at Sutton, as well as by previous disappointments, the bloody Mercian despot wreaked his vengeance upon some unfortunate hostages whom the chance of war had thrown into his power; these he sacrificed to his fury without mercy, and the conflict between him and the Britons was again renewed with increasing rancour. But though many engagements ensued between the contending parties, no material advantage was gained on either side till the fatal battle of (A.D. 796) Morfa Rhuddlan or Rhuddlun marsh, in the vale of Clwyd in Flintshire, where the confederated Welsh were totally defeated and their leader slain. Bishop Gibson, upon the authority of a MS. in the Hengwrt collection, asserts, that Meredydd king of Dyfed, and Offa himself, fell in this engagement, but other authors speak differently. Stowe says he died, after a reign of thirty-nine years, at Offley, and was buried in a chapel on the banks of the river Ouse. Camden likewise quotes Florilegus, who asserts that Offa made choice of Bedford for the place of his interment, but that the river Ouse being once more rapid, and rising higher than ordinary, swept away his monument. This is confirmed by Matthew Paris, who, speaking of the battle of Rhuddlan, stamps the character of this prince with eternal infamy; for he informs us, that in cold blood, he gave orders that every man and child who had been taken prisoners should be indiscriminately massacred, and scarcely did even the weaker sex escape his fury<sup>1</sup>. The memory of this tragic event has been transmitted to posterity by an antient Welsh tune called Morfa Rhuddlan. There is something so peculiarly plaintive and elegiac in the notes of this composition, that we cannot resist the temptation of inserting it, and to prove how well the sound conveys the language and sentiments of the bard upon this disastrous event, we need only mention, that when it was first played upon the harp to the late Colonel Chabbert (a Swiss gentleman, who came to reside in Breconshire) it brought tears into his eyes while he observed that he was sure it commemorated the defeat of a great army<sup>2</sup>.

#### ANHARAWD, LORD OF FFERREGS AND BRECON.

"Anharawd followed his father Tangwydd as regulus of Radnor and the lower part of Builth only, though Hugh Thomas calls him lord of Fferregs and Brecon. At this time (A.D. 819) Merfyn-frych and Essyllt governed North Wales: they were succeeded in the year 843 by Roderick the great, eldest

<sup>1</sup> Offchurch in Warwickshire, Offington in Sussex, and Offley in Staffordshire, preserve the memory of this royal Saint.

<sup>2</sup> The original words are lost: those now adapted to the tune are versified from a fragment published in the letters from

Snowdon. This key seems to be much better suited to the subject than that in which it is given by Jones. It is set by the late celebrated blind Parry Vide, the music after the next page.



son of Mervyn, who marrying Angharad the heiress of South Wales, brought the whole of the principality under his dominion. During this period, Wales suffered greatly by the incursions of Egbert king of the West Saxons, who having conquered Mercia and finally united the Saxon heptarchy into one kingdom, soon reduced the little princes of South Wales, then the confederates of the Danes, to the condition of tributaries. However, those troublesome foreign hornets found him and his successors such full employ for some years, that the Welsh were relieved from their visits and permitted to return to the old practice of cutting each other's throats; to which for centuries they never failed to resort in times of peace with England. In pursuance of this inveterate habit we find that about the year 846, according to the *Brut y Tywysogion*, a quarrel arose between Ithel king of Gwent, and the regulus or reguli of Brecknockshire. The cause of the dispute is not known; probably it was about the bounds between Brecknockshire and Monmouthshire, but thus much we know, that Ithel having attacked the men of Brecknock was defeated and slain, and the mighty horribly perjured long haired *Gwentians*<sup>1</sup> were compelled to take to their heels.

## GWYNDYDD, REGULUS OF BRECKNOCK.

"Gwngy, Gwngydd, Gwendid or Gwendydd ap Anharawd (for we find him by these four different names in pedigrees) appears as the next regulus of Brecheiniog and what remained of Fferregs. In some MSS. he is called the son of Nês, the son of Hoyw, but Llewelyn Offeiriad says, he was the son of Anharawd; he was contemporary with Anharawd, Cadell and Mervyn, the sons of Rodri mawr or the great, who by his will divided the principality among them and built a palace for each. Cadell, the son to whose lot South Wales fell, lived at Dinevor or Dinasfawr in Carmarthenshire; he had also a palace at Llyswn in Brecknockshire, and perhaps at Caerau, in the upper part of the hundred of Builth in the same county. The princes of South Wales were tributaries to the princes of North Wales, and paid them the annual sum of £63 which was called Maelged. The royal tribute due from the principality at large to the imperial crown of London, as ordained by the constitutions of Dyfnwal Moel-mûd, was called Teyrnged; by the first is meant a military, and by the latter a political contribution or tax, the one for the defence, and the other for the support and maintenance of the government of the whole kingdom.

"The territories of Fferregs had by this time suffered a material diminution, and the greatest part of them were then in subjection to the Saxon power. Even Brecknockshire, from the destructive operation of the law of gavelkind, that universal leveller of British property, was frequently divided and subdivided into numerous portions and lordships, the little chieftain or head of each of which exercised an almost despotic power over his clan or family, at the same time that they professed to pay a kind of anomalous obedience to the prince of South Wales.

## THE DANES IN BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

"About the year 896, the Danes, according to Powel, being defeated by Alfred, left their wives, their children and effects in Essex, and so passed overland to Enadbryge upon the Severn, and then passing the river spoiled the county of Brecknock, Gwentland and Gwentllwg. Smollet says they were pursued by Alfred as far as Quatbridge; and Hume, that they fled to Quatford, where they were finally broken and subdued: the chronicle of Cradoc of Lancarvan, which Powel professes to follow, takes notice of their route, but makes these invaders to be *Normans*: 'Deng mlynedd a phedwar ugain mlynedd ac wyth cant oedd oed Crist, pan fu farw Swbin y doethaf o'r Scottiaid, etc., ac yno y diffeithiawd y *Normaniaid* Lloegr a Brecheiniog, a Morganwg a Gwent a Buallt Gwnllwc,' i.e., in the year of Christ 890 died Swbin the wisest of the Scotch nation, —and then were England, and Brecknock, and Glamorgan, and Builth, and<sup>2</sup> Gwentllwg ravaged by the Normans.<sup>3</sup> From whence Smollet or Hume derive their information, as to the retreat of the Danes, is not stated by either of these authors.<sup>4</sup> Quatford or Quatbridge is a small village in Shropshire,<sup>5</sup> upon the banks of the Severn, about two miles below Bridgenorth: it seems to be highly probable that this was the line of their march, or rather of their flight, for as their attack is said to have been first on Brecknock

<sup>1</sup> Taliesin in his poem upon the battle of Garant under Ynyr, prince of Gwentland, describes the inhabitants of that district as being remarkable for their long hair and perfidious conduct; "mawr erch *anudon*, Gwentywys gwallt hirion." Perhaps it would be more in the spirit of the original, to translate *anudon* here by faithless, or regardless of treaties; literally it means perjured.

<sup>2</sup> The word "and" so necessary to complete the sentence (in Welsh "a") is here accidentally omitted in the original.

<sup>3</sup> In another part of this passage, which we did not think necessary to follow, they are called y *Normaniaid duon*, the black Normans. The Welsh always called the *Danes* the black army

either from their standard, the raven, or the colour of their armour.

<sup>4</sup> Mr Turner, in his *History of the Anglo Saxons*, quotes Florentius of Worcester and the Saxon chronicle for this irruption, and says, they settled at Bridgenorth, where he informs us they were permitted (after having raised intrenchments in *their flight*, which resisted the power of Alfred) to pass the winter unmolested. The British account of their ravaging Wales, and their dispersion or perhaps embarkation on the Western coasts of the principality, appears to us to be more likely to be correct.

<sup>5</sup> Stowe calls this place Quatbridge, and Speed Cartbridge upon Severn; both these historians make the Danes return from thence into England, instead of crossing the Severn into Wales.



and then on Glamorganshire and Gwent or Monmouthshire, it is clear they could not have crossed the Severn much lower down than the confines of Shropshire, or their irruption would have been first into Herefordshire or Monmouthshire. From Quatford they must have proceeded to Ludlow and from thence along the borders of Radnorshire and Herefordshire, towards Hay in Brecknockshire, where, or soon afterwards, separating, one division of these depredators proceeded up the vale of Wye, through Builth, into the vale of Ystradowy in Caermarthenshire, and from thence into Caerdiganshire, while the other party laid waste the vale of Usk, and entered Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, destroying the habitation and carrying away with them the effects of the inhabitants. In 911 the Danes again made an unsuccessful attack on South Wales, when they were compelled, as Powell says, to make the best of their way into Ireland.

#### HUGANUS, PRINCE OR LORD OF BRECKNOCK.

"The successor of Gwngy is called by John de Castores, Huganus, who describes him as a prince of West Wales, but all our pedigrees make him prince or lord of Brecknock, though they differ as to his name; some write it Kydd, others Ky and Gy, and others Guy and Hudd. His reign commenced about the latter end of the ninth, or very early in the tenth century; soon after which, finding Edward the elder fully employed in expelling the incursions of the Danes, he seized, as he thought, the favourable opportunity of revenging the many insults that had been offered to his country, and recovering by well timed exertions, the possessions which had been wrested from his ancestors. With the strongest levy he could muster he passed the Saxon boundary and commenced hostilities, but here he met with an unexpected check from the Mercian Elfleda or Ethelfleda. This heroine was the wife, and afterwards the widow of Ethelfred, earl of Mercia, daughter to Alfred the great and sister to the Saxon monarch Edward: from her masculine talents and military exploits, she was generally called *King*. In the year 914, according to Powel, (although Cradock says Edelfled died in 910,<sup>1</sup> and makes no mention of her expedition and victories in Wales), she entered into that country at the head of a powerful army and meeting with Huganus upon the borders, a severe engagement ensued, in which he was not only defeated by this Amazon, but followed up so closely, that his castle of *Brecenanmere* was taken by storm, and his princess or queen, as she is sometimes called, with thirty-four of her attendants, sent prisoners into Mercia. This battle in Welsh is called *Gwaith y Ddinas newydd*, or the battle of the new city. It is difficult to ascertain the site of this ancient fortress, whether it be denominated Brecenanmere or Dinas newydd. Camden doubts whether it was Brecknock or Castell y Dinas *on a steep tapering rock above the lake*: a note in Rapin, quoting the Saxon annals, and H. Huntingdon says, she took Brecenanmere, *supposed* to be Brecknock: against this, however there is an insurmountable objection, which is, that Brecknock castle *certainly*, and probably the town, was not built until near two hundred years after this period. The conjecture of Camden is equally unfortunate as to Castell y Dinas, which is not situate, as he describes it, upon a high hill near the lake, but at a considerable distance from it, and separated from Llangorse lake by an intervening range of mountains; besides, that portion of Brecknockshire in which Castell y Dinas is situate, was then in the possession of the descendants of Drem Drem-rudd or Rhain and not of Huganus. The castle of Blânlyfni, therefore, seems to have the best claim to be considered as the residence of the lady and her attendants; for this is placed at the head of the lake of Llyn-savaddan or Brecknock mere. This castle being most probably described by the earliest historians as built near a lake, was stated by the first transcriber or perhaps translator who recorded this event in the English language, as 'the castle of or near to Brecknock or *Brecon mere*, afterwards corrupted into Brecenanmere.'<sup>2</sup>

#### DEFEATED BY ETHELFLEDA.

"Hwgan being thus disconcerted in his projects, and disgraced in his arms, fled to Derby, where he joined the Danes, who cordially received and tendered him their assistance: supported by his new friends, he prepared for a recommencement of hostilities, but all his attempts to elude the vigilance or resist the good fortune of Elfleda were vain. With incredible activity she hastened with her victorious army and pursued her defeated foe to his rallying place; here, before he was enabled to complete his schemes, she laid close siege to the town, and though Hwgan on the other side was not idle, and though he encouraged the garrison both by exhortation and example to make a spirited defence, yet after a trifling advantage, the gates of the city were set on fire by *Gwaine lord of Ely*, steward to Elfleda, and after a vigorous attack, possession was taken of the citadel by the assailants. Hwgan, perceiving that every thing was irrecoverably lost, determined to die bravely, rather than surrender himself dishonourably to a woman; he therefore rushed furiously into the heat of the battle, and fell covered with innumerable wounds.

<sup>1</sup> Stowe places her death in 919, and Speed in 912.

<sup>2</sup> An objection, similar to the last mentioned, lies to Blân-

lyfni, which was likewise in the Cwmwd; but we know not where else to find a home for Hwgan's queen.



“His son Dryffin, sometimes called Sir Dryffin and Dyfnwal, succeeded to his father's government and soon experienced nearly similar misfortunes: ‘of manners gentle and affections mild,’ the emollient arts of peace were more congenial with his mind, than the din of arms or the bustle of a camp. Imperious necessity, however, often compelled him to take the field, though his whole life was a continued series of mortification and losses. In his time, Athelstan king of England, having triumphed over the Danes and Scots, whom he repeatedly defeated in several pitched battles, marched with an army into Wales: this, according to Powel, was in the year 933, but Cradoc's Chronicle says, Athelstan died in 930, and no notice is there taken of this irruption. Powel however proceeds to inform us, that he forced the princes of the adjoining and neighbouring countries to pay him a tribute of twenty pounds in gold, three hundred in silver, and two hundred head of cattle; this tribute is mentioned in the Brompton Chronicle, but there the number of cattle is doubled.

## HYWEL DDA RESTORES THE UNITY OF WALES.

“The celebrated Welsh legislator, <sup>1</sup>Hywel Dda, or the good, had now, upon the death of his cousin Edwal Foel or the bald, the son of Anharawd, once more united the principality of Wales under one leader. Whether he obtained this dignity solely by the efforts of ambition, or was called to it by the voice of the people, or whether great talents for government occasionally interrupted the succession in these disorderly days, is not clear: certain it is, that the sons of the late prince of North Wales were superseded without any opposition. Whatever the means were by which Hywel obtained the sovereignty, his early and vigilant attention to the common weal and the mild tenor of his government, must, in some measure, palliate, though it may not altogether vindicate an act of injustice, if such it was. His code of laws, however whimsical and unaccountable some of them now appear, collected from the most antient records<sup>2</sup> and grounded upon the well known and best received customs of his nation, must ever remain a stupendous monument of his wisdom and discrimination, at the same time that his upright and impartial administration of those laws justly intitle him to the appellation of *the good*.

## THE FOUR CANTREDS OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

“About the year 944, he made a general survey of the principality,<sup>3</sup> dividing the whole into grand and petty districts; in this division, Brecknock formed four cantreds or hundreds, Cantreff-mawr, Cantreff-Tewdos, Cantreff-Eudaf and Cantreff-Selyff; these were again divided into Cwmwds, Cymydau or smaller jurisdictions: Cantreff-mawr contained Cwmwd Llywel and Cwmwd Dyffryn Honddu, Cantreff-Tewdos, Cwmwd y Gelly and Cwmwd Glynbwch, Cantreff-Selyff, Cwmwd Brwynllys and Cwmwd Talgarth, and Cantreff-Eudaf, Cwmwd Tyr Ralph, Cwmwd Ystradyw, Cwmwd Crughywel and Cwmwd Ewyas. Sir John Pryce in his description of Wales, divides Brecknockshire into Cantreff-Selyff, Cantreff-canol and Cantreff-mawr; his subdivisions are evidently erroneous and almost unintelligible. Hay, Talgarth, Builth and Llangorse are placed within the Cwmwds of Tyr Ralph, Llywel and Cerrig Howell, but in which of them is not stated; it is however perfectly immaterial; as the town of Hay or Gelli (as it is there called) was certainly not in either of them, and Builth was at that time part of another province.

From this survey of Hywel, we see clearly that Crickhowel or Ystradyw and the county adjacent was at that time considered as part of Brecknockshire, though he does not hesitate to acknowledge

<sup>1</sup> Howel the Good is said to have lived in Brecon (*Liber Llandavensis*, page 477), and with him resided Pater or Padarn, who became Bishop of Llandaff in 943 and died 961. Crickhowell was sometimes esteemed part of Glamorgan (*Liber Llandavensis*, page 512) and in the Diocese of Llandaff: “Know all Christians that there are seven Cantrefs in the Lordship of Glamorgan . . . of which the seventh is Cantref Gwent uchod (upper Gwent), Ystradyw (Crickhowell), and Ewyas (in Herefordshire), which both are called the sleeves of Gwent uchod. Be it likewise known to you that Edgar and Hywel dda and Morgan Hen (the old) were Kings of all Britain, and those two were subject to King Edgar. Morgan the Old enjoyed the whole of Glamorgan in peace, but Hywel dda would take from him Ystradyw (Crickhowell) and Ewyas if he could, which being made known King Edgar called Hywel dda and Morgan Hen and his son Owain and examined between the two, and it was found that Hywel dda had acted wrongfully against Morgan Hen and his son Owain, and Hywel dda was deprived of those two districts Ewyas and Ystradyw (Crickhowell) for ever. Afterwards King Edgar gave to Owain the son of Morgan Hen the two districts of Ystradyw and Ewyas declared by name to be in the diocese of Llandaff, as his own proper inheritance.” Hywel, however, died before Edgar came to the throne; it was

his son and successor Owain who intruded into the dominion of Morgan the aged. The incident is said to have taken place A.D. 958.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Lyttleton (who thought contemptuously of these laws) intimated, that from the entire agreement of several of them with those of the Saxons, they were occasionally borrowed from the latter. *Life of H. 2, v. 2, p. 333*. But without any fear of being charged with prejudice or national vanity, we have no hesitation in asserting that in Hywel's time, the Welsh were a far more learned and civilised people than the Saxons; this makes it more probable that the German pirates borrowed occasionally from the pupils of the Romans, than the latter from the former; besides, whoever peruses the *Leges Saxonice* of Wilkins, will see to whom these invaders were indebted for their ordinances. From Ina to Edward the Confessor, “pay your tythes” is one of the principal injunctions, and Alfred's laws begin with the decalogue of Moses oddly transposed; the Monks therefore were undoubtedly the authors and dictators of the Saxon laws, while those of Hywel (though he undoubtedly availed himself of the assistance of the learned of his day) preserved in many instances the manners, maxims, and character of early times, and of the artless children of nature.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 6108, p. 55. *Ibid.* No. 7017.



the spiritual jurisdiction of the see of Llandaff over it, for he calls it Cantreff-Eudaff or Oudoceus's hundred: it is also equally evident that Hywel and his tributary princes or lords governed this tract at the time of the survey; and history as well as tradition has confirmed their right, which has been incontrovertibly established by their possession of it, for ages long prior and subsequent to this period.

"The small remains of Fferregs, which has long been gradually decreasing as well from violence as by partition, were at length torn from the unfortunate Dyrffin by the arms of Elystan sirnamed Glodrydd, or Athelstan the famous or praiseworthy. The memory of this hero, as well as his conquests of this country, is preserved only in antient British MSS.; but both are so familiar to a Welshman, that to doubt of the existence of the man, or to cavil at the relation of his exploits, would be downright infidelity. This adventurer then (for such he is generally supposed to be, though some make him the legitimate lord of the greatest part of Fferregs) was the son of Cynhyllyn lord of Melenydd and Builth, who was the son of Ivor or Môr, the son of *Severus*, the son of Cadur Wenwyn, the son of Cadvan, the son of Owain, the son of Idnerth, the son of Iorwerth Hîrflawdd, the son of Treganwy, the son of Teon, the son of Gwineudau-freiddawd king of Alban or Scotland, by Arianwen or silvery-white, the daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog. Elystan was born at Hereford, then called Caer-ffawydd or Beech-chester, in the second year of the reign of Athelstan king of England, who it is said was his godfather and from whom he received his name; though the Saxon monarch proved a merciless sponser, invading his godson's dominions, laying his country waste with fire and sword, and imposing, as has been seen, a tribute upon him and his subjects. Elystan Glodrydd was slain in a civil broil at Cefn-di-goll in Montgomeryshire, the precise time of his death cannot be ascertained. He is said in some pedigrees to be alive in the time of Aeddan ap Blegored in the year 1010, at which period, if he was born in 927, (the second year of his godfather's reign) he must have been eighty-three years of age. He had issue Cadwgan,<sup>1</sup> to whom he gave Radnorshire and the greatest part of the hundred of Builth, and from him the male line continues to the present day, as will be seen when we come to the family of the Lloyds of Rhosferig or Rhos-Fferregs; to his second son Morgeneu he gave his possessions in North Wales bordering on Radnorshire and to his other sons, different parcels of his territories, thus laying a certain foundation for domestic disputes and family squabbles, and of course, furnishing an irresistible temptation to the neighbouring plunderers, to dismember his ill-gotten kingdom in the same manner as he had wrested it from the unfortunate Dyrffin.

#### MERCIAN INVASION OF THE COUNTY.

"During the government of this regulus, Brecknockshire was invaded by Alfred earl of Mercia: this event happened, according to Powel and Warrington, in the year 982, and both of them inform us, that the Saxon general destroyed the *town* of Brecknock; but the *Brut y Tywysogion* or Cradoc of Lancarvan's chronicle, places this expedition two years sooner, and with more correctness, states that the *country*<sup>2</sup> of Brecknock, for it is doubtful whether the town was even then built, was laid waste by the Saxons. They were soon afterwards defeated by the united forces of Hywel prince of North Wales and Einion the son of Owen prince of South Wales; the latter, a promising young man, met with a very ungrateful return from his countrymen; he was treacherously slain by the nobles or great men of Gwent, while endeavouring to suppress a commotion, though he seems for that purpose to have made use of no other means than argument or intreaties.

Upon the death of Dyrffin, he was succeeded by his son Maenarch or Maenyrch in the government of Brecknockshire. The misfortune of his ancestors, or his own inability to contend with his more powerful neighbours, taught him to seek his security in peace: he lived quietly and inoffensively within his little territory and instead of embroiling himself in the discord or civil war which agitated the minds and desolated the property of his countrymen of that day, he strove only to improve and repair the possessions left him, which he considerably enlarged by his marriage with Elinor daughter of Einion ap Selyff, lord of Cantreff-Selyff. She was the sixteenth from Brychan and sole heiress to her father, who was the fifteenth from Cradoc Fraich-fras: in the issue therefore of this marriage flowed the blood of both these princes, and under Maenarch the whole of the present county of Brecknock, after an interval of near six hundred years, became at length united and subject to the control of one man. But this the absurd policy of the times would not long permit to continue; accordingly we find Drymbennog, second son of Dyrffin, in possession, not many years after the death of his father, of the sovereignty or lordship of Cantreff-Selyff, and we should in all pro-

<sup>1</sup> From him are lineally descended the present noble *English* family of Cadogan.

<sup>2</sup> Whatever merit Powel may generally be entitled to as a translator, the Welsh reader cannot avoid reprobating the inattention and inaccuracies observable in his book; thus

Cradoc's expression here describes the *desolation of a country* and not the destruction of a town: his words are "*diffeithiawd Brecheinawc*:" *diffeithiaw* is to convert a cultivated or inclosed country into a desert or waste, and the termination "*awc*" (as before observed) generally implies a region.



bability have seen the natural ill consequences of such a partition, if the arms and good fortune of the Norman invader had not soon afterwards prevailed; when both these *monarchs in miniature* were reduced to the condition of subjects, if not of slaves, to the conquerors.

## GREAT BATTLE AT LLECHRYD.

"We now proceed to the last of the British race who wore the trappings of royalty, or exercised anything like *sovereign power* over the land of Brecknock. Bleddin ap Maenarch, soon after the death of his father, married Elinor, daughter of Tewdwr mawr and sister to Rhys ap Tewdwr prince of South Wales. This connection, though dictated by prudence and apparently recommended by sound policy, so far from procrastinating his doom, or averting the blow which was meditated against him, contributed to accelerate his ruin. His brother in law was an able, a brave, and an active prince, but he was the child of misfortune.

"The history of this illustrious family is too intimately blended with the fate of Bleddin to be passed over unnoticed.

"The princes of South Wales descended from Hywel dda, having been long excluded from their rights by the capricious succession of the times, Rhys ap Tewdwr (A.D. 1076) put in his claim and was elected prince of South Wales by the unanimous voice of his people. According to Vaughan of Hengwrt, the immediate territories of this prince were only the present counties of Cardigan and Carmarthen; as Pembroke, Brecknock, Gwent and Glewissig, then called Herefordshire were governed by their different reguli, though there is no doubt that they all acknowledged the paramount authority of the prince of South Wales. It might reasonably be expected that a title thus founded upon the fairest and most honourable basis, the approbation and free choice of his subjects, would have been happy and permanent, but the ill-fated Rhys was destined soon to feel "the unstable slightness" of popular favour, and to furnish posterity with one more example of the vicissitudes which generally attend the fate of princes in a barbarous and half civilized state of society. For a while, he enjoyed his sovereignty without disturbance; at length, however, the sons of Bleddyn<sup>1</sup> ap Cynfin, desirous of recovering those rights, of which they were deprived by the murder of their father and the usurpation of Caeradog, suddenly raised an insurrection in South Wales against Rhys, who being unprepared to resist such a formidable and unexpected attack, was compelled to retire to Ireland for safety. Here he met with a hospitable reception from Sittric<sup>2</sup> king of Dublin, who had married Nest, one of his sisters, by whose friendship, as well as by promises of liberal rewards, if he should succeed, he soon raised a strong army of Irishmen and Scots, and was enabled once more to set up his standard in Wales, where he instantly prepared to assert his rights and recover his dominions. Upon his landing, the capricious multitude, who had a little while before deserted him without a cause, now eagerly flocked to him, and pressed forward with ardour in his support. From the scene of the battle which afterwards ensued, it should seem as if he began his march at Aberystwith in Cardiganshire, and that Cadwgan, Riryd, and Madoc, his adversaries, were then ravaging, or at least tyrannizing, over the territories of his brother in law, Bleddyn ap Maenarch in Brecknockshire, who, upon the news of his arrival in the principality, joined him with all the force he could raise. The two opposing armies met at a place called by Powel corruptly, Llech y creu, but more correctly, Llechyryd or *Llechriryd*,<sup>3</sup> near the river Wye, in the parish of Disserth in Radnorshire: here a bloody conflict followed, which ended in the defeat of the sons of Bleddyn, two of whom were slain in the field of battle, from thence forward called Llechryd, from a Carn or Llech thrown up to

<sup>1</sup> Bleddyn ap Cynfin, prince of North Wales and Powis was assassinated by Rhys the son of Owain ap Edwin, and the nobility of Ystradyw. His affability of manners and mild government had endeared him to his countrymen, but he betrayed their liberties and debased the dignity of his crown by condescending to receive it from the hereditary enemy, the English; he was the compiler of a code of laws, and established some regulations respecting the bards. After his death, his kinsman Trahaern ap Caeradog being supported by the voice of the people, assumed the government to the prejudice of his children.

<sup>2</sup> Sitric, Sittric, or Sittricus, son of Awlaf or Olave king of Dublin, assisted Donagh, first bishop of Dublin, to build the cathedral of Christchurch in that city, instituted for regular canons in the year 1038. The record of the foundation of the church gives the following account, "Sittricus, king of Dublin, son of Ablab or Amlave, earl of Dublin, gave to the Holy Trinity and to Donagh, first bishop of Dublin, a place where the arches or vaults are founded, to build the church of the Holy Trinity, together with the lands of Beal, Duleh, Rochere, Port Rahern,

with their villains, cattle, and corn, and gave also silver and gold sufficient to build the church and the whole court." Holinshed says, Sitric was governor or King of the Danes in Northumberland, as well as king of Ireland, about the year 926. He relates a story of his being poisoned by his wife Beatrice, daughter of Athelstan, king of England, for which crime she was punished by Aulafa and Godfrey, his sons, in a very singular manner, "she was set naked," says he, "upon a smythe's cold anville, or stythie, and there with hard rosted eggs being taken forth of the hot ymbors, were putte under her arm pittes, and her armes fast bound to her bodie with a corde, and so in that state she remayned till her life passed from her bodi." The Welsh pedigrees called Sittric the brother in law of Rhys ap Tewdwr, (q. if the same as Holinshed's Sittric, Sitric, Kendric, or Wygan) he died in the year 1042 or 1043.

<sup>3</sup> In Powel's Edition of Cradoc of Llancarvan, printed in 1584, this battle is said to have been fought at *Llechyryd*; Llech y Crue is, a corruption of a later edition, copied over and over again, by subsequent authors, commentators, annotators, etc.



the memory of Riryd,<sup>1</sup> who fell there. Cadwgan, who escaped with his life, survived to experience the vicissitudes of fortune, and to become alternately a prince and an outlaw, the general of an army, and the chief of a troop of Banditti.

“Rhys, thus fully reinstated in his principality, dismissed his Irish and Scotch friends, satisfied with the result of the expedition and the recompense made them for their assistance; to some he gave lands in Wales, where they became settlers. In this number was Idio Wyllt, or the wild, earl of Desmond, on whom, with the consent of Bleddin, it must be presumed, he bestowed the lordship of Llywel in Brecknockshire. The son of this Idio was named Moreiddig, Warwyn or Whitenape, who marrying Catherine the widow of Thomas, lord Lacy of the Golden Vale in Herefordshire, became the ancestors of the Parrys of Poston in that county and Llandevaillog tre'r graig in Brecknockshire.

#### GRIFFITH AP MEREDITH BEHEADED.

“The sunshine of peace, which had faintly begun to gleam on the reign of Rhys, was of short continuance. Factions raised among his own rebellious and restless nobles, encouraged and supported by the court of London, which had long, though hitherto unsuccessfully, plotted the reduction of Wales, continually disturbed his mind, and finally ended in his destruction. Llewelyn and Einion, sons of Cadifor ap Collwyn lord of Dyved, having, it seems, conceived some disgust against their sovereign, entered into a confederacy against him with Griffith ap Meredith, a nobleman of weight in his country, whom they prevailed upon to engage in their designs and to assist them in their insurrection: thus supported, they marched suddenly to Llandidoch, or according to Warrington, Llandudoch or St. Dogmael's in Pembrokeshire, where Rhys then resided, and commenced hostilities against him unprepared, as they supposed, for their reception. But experience had now taught him to guard against the open attacks, as well as the secret machinations of his enemies, he therefore bravely met them in the field, and, after a smart action, entirely defeated these rebels with very considerable loss on their side. Griffith was taken prisoner and immediately executed, or as one copy of Cradoc of Llancarvan has it, *he was made shorter<sup>2</sup> by the head*. Einion, afterwards notorious by the name of Einion Fradwr, or the traitor, fled to Jestin ap Gwrgan lord or prince of Glamorgan, who was then at enmity with Rhys ap Tewdwr: this regulus was descended from the antient princes of Gwent and Morganwg, and it is said, resided principally at Cardiff. The cause of the quarrel is differently related by the chronicles of the times, and must at last remain uncertain; some attribute it to a jealousy entertained by Jestin, who accused Rhys of too great intimacy with his wife. This however is improbable, if not absurd; we do not hear that there was ever any intercourse between them or their families, and Rhys at this very time was upwards of eighty years of age: it seems therefore most likely, that a question about a boundary or a *sheep-walk* produced the squabble between these great and mighty potentates. Be this as it may, it is clear that Jestyn was a most abandoned character, dissolute in his morals and oppressive in his government, debauching, either by open violence or secret intrigue, the wives and daughters of his neighbours; yet has this reprobate, for some unaccountable reason or other, been considered as one of the progenitors of the five royal tribes of Wales, and several of his posterity remain in Glamorganshire to this day, who trace with much vanity their descent from him, and boast, as an honour, that the blood of such a scoundrel continues to flow in their veins. The court of such a prince was a proper receptacle for traitors; accordingly we find that Einion was kindly received and hospitably entertained there by the unprincipled tyrant of Gwent, who readily entered into all his designs against Rhys and promised him his assistance. Too weak, or too timid to meet the veteran warrior in the field with their own forces, Einion, whose only passion was revenge and who had abjured his country, suggested an expedient which, at the same time that it gratified his ruling passions, and for a short time indulged the pride of his protector, ended in the subjugation of his country, and left both dependent upon

<sup>1</sup> At Abernant y beddau, or the conflux of the brook of the graves, in Cwmytoiddwr in Radnorshire, about six miles from Llechryd are three stones, each about one foot high, placed triangularly, concerning which there is the following traditional distich.

Mae tri bedd tribedog.

Ar Lannereh dirion feillionog

Lle claddwyd y tri Chawr mawr o Frechiniog.

Owen, Milfydd, a Madog.

There are three graves placed triangularly

Upon a pleasant green, where the trefoil grows,

Where the three mighty chiefs of (or from) Brecknockshire were

buried,

Owen, Milfydd, and Madoc.

If Cadwgan had been slain in this engagement, we should have conceived that Cadwgan, Riryd, and Madoc, were buried where these stones were placed, and we are still inclined to think they commemorate the defeat and flight of those three princes, who marched from Breconshire to meet Rees ap Tewdwr, and that the lines have been corrupted in the course of time.

<sup>2</sup> From this as well as several other phrases, which occur in the copy of the chronicle of Aberpergwm or Llangrallo, (see Myf. Arch. Vol. 2.) we suspect that this MS. is of later date than that which precedes it, which was extracted from the Llyfr Coch o Hergest, or at least, that considerable alterations have been made to it in a modern hand.



the mercy and liberality of foreigners, whose language, customs and manners, were widely different from those to which the Britons had been long habituated, and to which they were warmly attached.

## EINION THE ENGLISHMAN DEFEATS RHYS AP TEWDWR.

“Einion had been an officer in the English army, had served under the king of England in France and other countries, and was a favourite in the court of London; it was therefore agreed that he should use his interest with some of the Norman nobles to invite them to join with him against the prince of South Wales. To reward him for this *inestimable* kindness, and to stimulate these patriotic efforts, Jestyn promised Einion his daughter Nest in marriage, together with the lordship of Miscin in Glamorganshire as a portion. The task he undertook was not difficult; an adventurer of the name of Robert Fitzhammon<sup>1</sup> readily engaged in the enterprize, and prevailed upon several of the Norman chieftains and their followers to accompany him. Aided by the number as well as the discipline of these soldiers of fortune, the confederates marched into the territories of Rhys and laid waste all before them with fire and sword, who, upon his part, being soon roused by the intelligence he received, and indignant at the injuries his country sustained, once more prepared to meet the invaders. The two armies encountered each other at a place called Hirwain-Wrgan, a large plain on the confines of Glamorganshire and Breconshire, on the south western boundary of the latter county; here, the good genius of Rhys finally deserted him, and from this time little more than a titular sovereignty remained with a few of his descendants. After a bloody battle (A.D. 1091) his troops were completely routed, and according to the chronicle last quoted he himself was compelled to fly to Glyn Rhodneu<sup>2</sup> in Glamorganshire, where he was overtaken and beheaded at a place, from thence called Pen Rhys or Rhys's head.

“This account, however, of his flight and death will appear extremely improbable, if not incredible, to those who are acquainted with the topography of the country: independent of the contradictory statement given by historians of the time and manner of his death. Hirwain-Wrgan,<sup>3</sup> as has been before observed, is on the south western confines of Breconshire; part of this field is situate in that county. Glyn-Rhondda is ten or twelve miles eastward of this plain and nearer Cardiff; consequently every step which Rhys must have taken in the flight, as here set down, brought him nearer to the lion's den. The chronicle of Jeuan of Brechfa says, he was slain in the field of battle. George Owen Harry, in his *Well Springe of True Nobilitie*, says ‘he was put to flight by Robert Fitzhammon and twelve knights, who came to the aid of Justin ap Gwrgan lord of Glamorgan, but after goeing to aide Bleddin ap Maenarch, his brother-in-law, he was slaine.’ The tradition of Brecknockshire to which Hugh Thomas gives credit, informs us that the engagement between Bleddin ap Maenarch and Rhys on the one side, and the Normans under Bernard Newmarch on the other, took place within two or three miles of the present town of Brecknock, where, Thomas says, the village and range of hills adjoining the action are still, in remembrance of this said event, called *Battle*, a well within the hamlet, Pen Sir Rhys, or the well of Sir Rhys's head, and the lane from Brecon to Battle, Heol y Cymry, or the Welshmen's lane. All this is perfectly correct, as far as it relates to the well and the lane; yet the chapel there, was not so called from this or any other battle, but being dependent upon, and a hamlet of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist in Brecon, which church and monastery was a cell to Battle in Surrey, this chapel received that name in compliment to the religious house to which the mother church appertained.

## BERNARD NEWMARCH ENTERS BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

“The fact then probably was, that Rhys after his defeat fled to Caerbannau, or as it was soon afterwards corruptly called, Caerwong, at that time his brother in law's residence and strong hold, and shut himself up with him. In the following year (1092), allured by the success of Robert Fitzhammon and his accomplices, and perhaps invited by them to complete the conquest of the principality, another swarm of freebooters entered into Brecknockshire, commanded by Bernard Newmarch or Bernardus de novo Mercatu, and played the same game with equal success, though perhaps with less colour of right, as Fitzhammon did in Glamorganshire. All historians are agreed as to the consequences of this irruption, but none of them have transmitted to us the occurrences which preceded the conquest, or attempted minutely to describe the field of battle where the fate of Bleddin was decided: on conjecture therefore in a great measure, assisted here and there by a glimmering of information from the broken and unconnected records of our meagre chronicles and

<sup>1</sup> The *Brut y Tywysogion* calls him Cefnderw y Brenhin Coch, cousin to the red haired king, Wm Rufus. Myf. Arch. Vol. 2, p. 324.

<sup>2</sup> Glyn Rhondda.

<sup>3</sup> Hirwaun-Wigan (the long Meadow of Gurgan). Gurgan ab Ithel gave the plain called the Long Meadow of Gwrgan to his poor subjects and to all other Welshmen for raising corn and breeding sheep and cattle. (Genealogy of Kings of Glamorgan—Idlo MS. page 377).



MSS., must depend whatever knowledge can now be derived as to the incidents that happened at this period. In the copy of Cradoc taken from the Llyfr coch o Hergest, and which as before observed, seems to be of higher antiquity and more correct than the Aberpergwm MS., it is said, 'Deng mlynedd a phedwar ugain a mîl oedd oed Crist pan lês Rhys ap Tewdwr Brenhin Deheubarth gan y *Ffrancod* a oedd yn preswyllo Brecheiniog' (in the year of Christ 1090, Rhys ap Tewdwr prince of South Wales was slain by the *Frenchmen* who inhabited Brecknockshire).<sup>1</sup>

#### HIS FIGHT WITH BLEDDIN AP MAENARCH.

"If this account then is to be depended upon, it may be true that the battle in which Rhys was slain was fought near the village of that name, yet it was not between him on the one side, and Fitzhammon and Einion on the other, but between Bleddin ap Maenarch and Bernard Newmarch: after a survey of the ground where this battle is supposed to have taken place, we may perhaps be allowed to indulge in an imaginary, though probable description of the encounter. It has been just hinted that this expedition of Bernard was concerted between him and Fitzhammon, or at least that the success of the latter led to the invasion of Brecknockshire; in his route therefore from England, the conqueror of this county very naturally called upon his countrymen in Glamorganshire, who, if they did not join, at least so far assisted him as to point out the road taken by Rhys in his flight from Hirwain-Wrgan. Pursuing his steps, the invader came to Caerbannau, which being too strongly fortified by nature as well as art to promise success in an attack on the western side, it should seem that the Normans made a feint of filing off northward, along a ridge parallel with the river Escir, as if they intended proceeding towards the Eppynt hills and the hundred of Builth. On the other or eastern side of the river, where the British troops were posted, the lane called Heol y Cymri, as far as it bears that name, runs parallel with this supposed march of the Normans. Along this lane the Britons proceeded, watching the motions of the enemy, but concealed from them by higher ground on the left hand, so that apprehending no opposition, Bernard and his forces attempted to cross the Escir through a wood, from this event called Cwmgwern y gâd, now corruptly Cwmgwingad, or the wood of the vale of the battle, opposite the mansion house of the late Colonel, and subsequently, Mrs. Chabbert. Here however they were observed by some of the British scouts upon the opposite eminence, when the Welsh army pouring down the common between Battle village and Mrs. Chabbert's, must certainly have attacked the enemy to great advantage; but the discipline of the Normans prevailed, the assailants were driven back and in this retreat or flight, tradition informs us Rhys lost his head near a well on the common just mentioned, called Ffynnon Pen Rhys, or Ffynnon *Sir* Rhys. The fury of the battle ceased not till the residence of Bleddin was attacked on the eastern side, where it was most assailable and where he himself, as we learn from Hugh Thomas as well as some other MSS., was slain while gallantly defending his life, his liberty, and his country against a horde of robbers, who had no pretence or motive for hostilities, except a savage and unjustifiable love of plunder, or any argument to support them but the sword.<sup>2</sup>

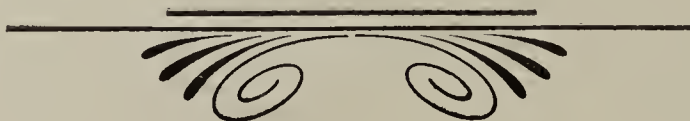
Thus fell Bleddin ap Maenarch,<sup>3</sup> and with him perished the independence of Brecheiniog as a British state or province: from henceforward we shall see it subject to foreign masters and governed by strange laws.

<sup>1</sup> The same thing is asserted in the anonymous chronicle in Leland "Res filius Tewder a Francis qui in Brechinauc habitabant occiditur." See also the *Brut y Saeson* in the *Myfyrian Archaeology*, v. 2, p. 527, which informs us, that Rhys was killed by the Frenchmen (meaning certainly Normans), who lived in Brecknockshire.

<sup>2</sup> A house in the neighbourhood of Battle, called Glywdy is generally supposed to have been the station of a British sentinel, and the word to be derived from the watch word, a glywi di? —dost thou hear? But however firmly established this definition may appear to be, it does not seem well founded; this station must have been in the rear of the British army; there is no eminence or disgwylfa near it, on the contrary, it is situated at the foot of a hill. Glywdy therefore, in all probability, is only

a corruption of Glawdy or Glawty, an outhouse or place to shelter cattle, or preserve implements of husbandry from the rain.

<sup>3</sup> Bleddin ap Maenarch was buried as Ystradflur or Strata Florida abbey in Caerdiganshire, which was built by his brother in law Rhys ap Tewdwr, and endowed in 1164 by Rhys ap Griffith, who styles himself the founder, in his charter preserved in the *Monasticon*. Leland, in his *Collectanea*, vol. 1. p. 45, more correctly calls "Resus filius Theodori princeps Suth-Wallie primus fundator," of this monastery. Bleddin left two sons, Gwrgan, from whom are descended the Wogans of Pembroke-shire and several families in Brecknockshire, and Cradoc whose issue (if it has not failed) from the continual change of names, cannot now be traced.





## CHAPTER V.

From the Conquest by Bernard Newmarch,<sup>1</sup> to the Accession of the Lordship of Brecknock by Humphrey de Bohun (the sixth of that Name), in Right of his Wife Elinor, one of the Daughters of William de Breos.

SEVERAL of our Welsh pedigrees make Bernard Newmarch to be uterine brother to William the Conqueror, though they are not confirmed in the assertion by any of the English historians. Mr. Collinson, the author of the *History of Somersetshire*, says his name was Pancevolt and that he held the lands of Dunkerton near Bath of one Turstin Fitzrolf, a Norman baron, who obtained that manor of the Conqueror, but that he afterwards took the name of de Novo Mercatu or of the New Market, under which he occurs as a witness to King William's charter to the monks of Battle; he is also called Newmarch and Neemarch in the roll of Battle Abbey, copied by Stowe in his Chronicle. Bernard Pancevolt, besides Dunkerton, held under the same Fitzrolf, as appears by Domesday Book, Gillingham in Dorsetshire, and Hildersley in Gloucestershire, and of the Crown he also held several manors in Sussex and Froxfield in Wilts, but we have still to learn Mr. Collinson's authority for representing Pancevolt as the same person with the conqueror of Breconshire. The assertion of Sir Robert Atkyns, that his descendants inherited the manor of Dyrham in Gloucestershire, seems to rest upon no surer foundation. In the insurrection excited against William Rufus, by his uncle Odo, in favour of Duke Robert (1088), we find Bernard de Newmarch associating with Ralph de Mortimer, Roger de Laci and other barons, doing considerable mischief in Worcestershire and Herefordshire; but by the exertions of the King, aided by Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, whose influence over the English nation was very considerable, they were beaten and repulsed, and afterwards returned to their allegiance.

### BUILDING OF BRECKNOCK CASTLE.

"Upon the defeat and death of Bledlyn, Bernard Newmarch disliking the situation of Caerbannau, then or since corruptly called Caervong, caused it to be razed to the ground, and following the course of the river Usk for three miles downwards, he crossed that river, as there are reasons to believe, some few yards below a mill called Usk mill.<sup>2</sup> An old deed in our possession, of the date of 1406, describes some lands which are thereby conveyed to one of the Havards of Cwrt John Young (a mansion formerly erected near the spot) as extending from Benni on the west, to *Bernardys forde* on the east. Here, on the north side of the Usk, the Conqueror built a strong castle on an eminence and fixed his residence, and whatever materials were worth carrying or preserving, he removed from the old town, and employed in the erection of his new fortress, or in building habitations for his followers and dependants.

### GIFTS OF MANORS TO NORMANS.

"To the knights and principal gentlemen who accompanied him in his expedition, he proceeded to distribute the domain he had acquired, agreeably to the feudal system then prevailing, reserving to himself the principal parts, with the seigniorship of the whole. To Sir Reginald Awbrey, he gave the manors of Slwch and Abercynrig; to Sir Humphrey Bourghill or Burghill, the manor of Crickhowel; to Sir Peter Gunter<sup>3</sup> the manor from him called Tregunter or Gunterstone; to Sir Miles Picard, de Picardé or Pitcher, the manor of Scethrog; to Sir John Walbieffe or Walbeoff<sup>4</sup> the manor of Llanhamlach and Llanvihangei tal y llyn; to Sir Humphrey Sollers, the manor of Tredustan; to Sir Walter Havard, the manor of Pontwylym; to Sir Richard de Bois, the manor called from him Trebois; to Sir Richard Peyton, the manor from him also called Peytin; to Sir John Skull, the manors of Bolgoed and Crai; to Sir Thomas, or as others, Sir Richard Bullen, or de Boulogne, the manor of Wern fawr; to Sir Philip Walwyn, the manor of Hay; to Sir Hugh Surdwal, the manor of Aberescir; to Sir Giles Pierrepont, otherwise Parkville, the manor of Gileston; and to Walter de Cropus, lands in Llansaintfread.

<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding all writers have placed the conquest of Breconshire about the year 1092, there are some reasons for believing that that event as well as the reduction of Glamorgan-shire occurred some few years sooner: for in 1088, Bernard de Newmarch gives Glazbury and the tythes of the lordship of Brecon, to Serlo the abbot and monks of Gloucestershire; and in the same year, we find him ravaging the borders of Wales, in conjunction with the friends of Robert of Normandy.

<sup>2</sup> This mill was standing in ruins some few years ago, on the

site where now (1900) is the feeder to the Brecknock Canal, at Newton Pool

<sup>3</sup> The Gunter family still exist; Col. Gunter, M.P., was a personal friend of the first Baron Glanusk.

<sup>4</sup> The Walbeofs are not yet extinct. A Walbeof was school-fellow of the late Captain J. Bailey, R.N., but sank into want. In 1884 a woman named Walby asked relief at Crickhowell. She said the family name was Walbeof, but her husband had altered it because people laughed at it.



The descendants of most of these Normans continued in the country and the neighbourhood in 1805, though several of them had changed their names according to the Welsh custom; but the Peytons and Pierreponts<sup>1</sup> soon failed or quitted the principality.

#### BERNARD'S GRANT TO GWRGAN.

"Some MSS. inform us that Gwrgan the eldest son of Bleddin made attempts to recover his father's dominions, yet without success; if this was the case, Bernard behaved to him with a liberality not very common in those days, for though he kept him pretty much under his eye, and he was considered as a kind of state prisoner in his castle and town of Brecon, he gave him the lands and revenues arising from the manors of Blânllfni, Aberllyfni, and part of Llanvihangel tal y llyn. Cradoc had lands assigned him in the hilly parts of the country, and his uncle Drymbenog, second brother to his father, was permitted to enjoy as much of the lordship of Cantreff-Selyff as remained after the slices cut out for the Norman knights. Such conduct towards an unfortunate family, whom the chances of war had thus thrown into his power, reflects no inconsiderable degree of credit upon the Conqueror, and in some measure wipes off the stain which his usurpation throws upon him; for though it be admitted that Gwrgan was narrowly watched and not permitted to stir abroad without the company of two Norman knights, yet when we recollect the precarious situation in which Bernard stood, and the difficulties by which he was surrounded on every side in the maintenance of his newly acquired territory, it must be confessed that want of caution would have been a want of sense. For notwithstanding victory had hitherto attended his standard, and we have seen him succeed with a celerity and to an extent beyond his most sanguine expectations, yet the implacable aversion of the natives to a foreign yoke must have rendered his tenure very far from being secure and undisturbed.

#### INSURRECTION IN 1094.

"As a proof of this, we hear that in the year 1094, the men of Brecknockshire, in concert with those of Gwent and Gower, upon the death of William Fitzbaldwyn (whose name it seems was a terror to the Welsh), attacked their invaders in all directions, defeating them in several engagements and expelled them from the country. Loth, however, to give up those possessions to which they conceived they were entitled, by a right frequently recognised by the soldier though the lawyer sometimes hesitates in admitting it, they returned from England with an immense army of their countrymen and Saxons, threatening to extirpate the Britons for their inveterate "*pervicacity*." But whether the latter had now acquired a superior knowledge of discipline from their conquerors, or a sense of their wrongs had inspired them with a determination to conquer or die, or both these causes contributed to their success, they met and defeated the assailants at a place called by different authors Celli Iarfawc, Celli Darfawc, and Celli carnawc,<sup>2</sup> and upon their endeavouring to rally, one of the Welsh chronicles tells us, the British army, making a feint of retiring into the mountains of Breconshire, by this stratagem induced the English to follow them, when they were again attacked in a disadvantageous position in Gelli-gaer (a parish in Glamorganshire on the confines of Breconshire), and totally defeated with the loss of many of their leaders, among whom were Roger Montgomery earl of Arundel, William Fitz-Eustace Earl of Gloucester, Arnold de Harcourt and Neal le Viscompte, who were all slain in the battle.

"The scattered remains of their forces attempted to reach England, but were intercepted by Griffith and Ivor, the sons of Idnerth ap Cadwgan, at a place called Aberllech in Monmouthshire, where the Welsh again triumphed and satiated their revenge with the blood of their late masters, so that for some time no safety remained for those Normans who continued in the country, but such as their stone walls and castles afforded them. Within these strongholds they lived, alternately in a state of gloomy grandeur and sulky silence, or brutal inebriety, and from thence they occasionally sallied forth in large bodies to desolate the country and plunder the inhabitants, depending, like other beasts of prey, chiefly upon the success of these kind of expeditions for provisions. It was in one of these sorties, probably from the garrison of the castle of Brecon (1098) that Cadwgan the son of Bleddin was slain by the followers or friends of Bernard Newmarch, though Powel, from what authority we know not, attributes his death to treachery.

#### BERNARD RELIEVED BY ROGER DE NEWBURGH.

"The Welsh writers are so elated with the temporary blaze of patriotism and valour, which shone among their countrymen at this period, that they forget to give us any account how the Normans

<sup>1</sup> It is remarkable that this name (certainly not a very common one) should be found in Brecon as late as the year 1448, as appears by a charter of that date from the duke of Buckingham to the borough of Brecon, in which, among other English names, are found those of John Pierrepont, senior, and John Pierrepont, junior. Sir Philip Walwyn or his descendants soon removed from Brecknockshire and settled in Herefordshire, where his posterity

now remain; they have not changed their names, but (which is rather extraordinary) they have picked up a Welsh motto, "*Trwy rhinwedd gwaed*," of noble blood, or of the blood of those who are much above the vulgar: "Fine words, I wonder where they stole 'em."

<sup>2</sup> Recte Gelligarnog or garneddog, the wood of the mounds or heaps of stones or tumuli.



regained their authority, and the English historians are too busily employed with the transactions of their kings upon the Continent, where they were now become of considerable weight and importance, to trouble themselves with recording the incidents occurring in a petty warfare among the mountains of Wales. It is not clear how far Bernard was implicated or what losses he sustained in these attacks of the Welsh. We have seen that his territories were one of the objects against which their forces were directed and through which they must have marched, but it does not appear that he composed part of the army, or was concerned in the affair of Gelli garnog or Aberllech; certain however it is, that soon after this event, he recovered his influence and power over his conquests, which he afterwards confirmed by his marriage. It was perhaps in the latter end of the eleventh, or very soon after the commencement of the twelfth century, that Roger<sup>1</sup> de Newburgh came to the assistance of Bernard de Newmarch, then nearly in a state of siege in his castle, and as the men of Gower had ravaged his possessions and supported his rebellious subjects (as he may have called them) it is not unlikely that after extricating himself out of his troubles in Breconshire, and bringing the natives once more under subjection, he joined his confederate in subduing the inhabitants of Gower in their turn, and that having succeeded in the enterprise, he conferred upon him some territorial possessions and mesne lordships in that country, in the same manner as he had rewarded his knights in Breconshire, reserving to himself the sovereignty or lordship paramount over the whole. This is the only mode of reconciling the inconsistent account given by Dugdale of the possession of Gowerland by the *two* families of Newburgh and the descendants of Bernard Newmarch; for while we are there told that Roger de Newburgh conquered his territory, that he gave it to his son William, upon whose death it came to his brother Henry, and that it was confirmed by the Crown in 1361 to the Beauchamps, the successors by marriage to the Newburghs Earls of Warwick, we have a kind of collateral or parallel history, by which it appears that during the same period the possession of the lordship descended from Milo Fitzwalter, the son in law of Bernard, to Phillip de Breos, in right of his wife Bertha, afterwards to William de Breos, one of their sons, to whom it was confirmed by King John in the year 1194, and that it continued in this family, notwithstanding the occasional claims of the Newburghs, until the abandoned and dissipated spendthrift William de Breos, in 1321, after having defrauded his son in law, John de Mowbray, upon whom he settled it, and cheated his creditors by mortgaging it three times over, at last sold it to three different persons at the same time, neither of whom obtained possession, though they all paid him the purchase money for it.

## BERNARD NEWMARCH, FOUNDER OF BRECKNOCK PRIORY.

“To strengthen and add stability to his interest among the Welsh, Bernard married Nest,<sup>2</sup> granddaughter of Griffith ap Llewelyn, Prince of North Wales, a lady who does no credit to our country or his choice, further than as it is contributed to give permanency to his title and reconciled his issue to his new subject. Having by these means endeavoured to make his government tolerable to the Britons, who either from necessity and compulsion, as has just been hinted or upon the subsiding of the ferment raised in the country by the sons of Bleddin, soon learned to submit to the yoke of their former masters, he now turned his arms against Elvel in Radnorshire, upon the borders of the Wye. This tract of country he added to his territories without much difficulty; thus forcing from Cadwgan ap Elystan Glodrydd what the father had with equal injustice and in the same violent manner torn from Dryffin ap Hwgan. After this expedition Bernard appears no more as a warrior: from henceforward he applied himself to make atonement, in the usual way in those days, for any vices or irregularities committed in the course of his life. By the advice of Roger, his confessor, monk of Battle, he founded the Benedictine priory of Saint John the Evangelist, without the walls of Brecknock Castle, which he liberally endowed and constituted a cell to Battle Abbey. The churches, lands, and tythes of Bodenham and Brunshope in Herefordshire, Pottingham in Staffordshire, Hardington<sup>3</sup> in Somersetshire, the manor of Berrington in Herefordshire, Llanywern,<sup>4</sup> Talgarth, Llangorse, and a portion of tythes in Llansaintfread in Brecknockshire, the lordship of Caernoys (Caerbannau), which in the charter

<sup>1</sup> Powel says, Henry de Newburgh conquered Gower, but Dugdale in his baronage attributes the subjugation of that country to his son Roger de Newburgh.

<sup>2</sup> This princess was a woman of very loose principles, and notoriously meretricious before her marriage; for by Fleance, the son of Banquo, king of Scotland, who fled to Walos, to avoid punishment for a murder, she had Walter Stuart, or the Steward, ancestor of the Stuarts, kings of Scotland, and afterwards of England. The honour of having killed his man was perhaps a recommendation to the lady at that time, *as it is said* to be since. in nations supposed to be more civilised.

<sup>3</sup> The church of Hardington was afterwards, by consent of the abbots and monks of Battle under their common seal, given up by the monks of Brecknock to those of Quarre in the Isle of Wight, upon payment of fifteen marks of silver by the latter, to whom it was then granted by Geoffrey Mandeville. Maddox's Form. Anglie. p. 255.

<sup>4</sup> Bernard de Newmarch in his charter expressly gives Llanywern in exchange for Llanvihangol tal y llyn, which was part of the lands assigned to Gwrgan tho eldest son of Bleddin ap Maenarch.



of Battle Abbey is called *the old town*, and one carucate<sup>1</sup> land adjoining a mill upon the Usk, and two thirds of another upon the river Honddu, the chapel within the walls of the castle, lands called Costnio, supposed to be Llangasty tâl y llyn near Brecknock mere, lands near Llyfni, and the tithes of Hay, besides other lands and domains given by his followers, were now appropriated towards the support of his new foundation, the principal management of which was given to one Walter, an intimate friend of Roger, and a brother monk of the same society, who upon the completion of the work was made prior and charged with the annual payment of twenty shillings as a token of filial obedience to the abbey in Sussex. The convent of Brecknock was privileged to vote at the elections of the abbots of Battle and its priors were eligible to the abbacy. To the monks of Gloucester, Bernard in 1088 gave the manor and advowson of Glazbury, a parish situate in the counties of Brecknock and Radnor, the advowson, glebe and tythes of Cowarne magna in Herefordshire, and one hyde called Bache, and all the tythes of his lordship called Brekenney or Brekenham, namely corn, cattle, cheese, venison and honey: perhaps by this last grant is meant the great forest of Devynnock, called in all royal grants the great forest of Brecknock. This gift was afterwards confirmed by William Rufus. The patronage of Devynnock, with one third of all the tythes of that parish, were in 1805 vested in the diocesan of Gloucester and in the original endowment of that see, given by Sir Robert Atkins, they are stated to be appendant to the dissolved monastery of Saint Peter.

“The manor of Glazbury was exchanged by Gilbert abbot of Gloucester, with Walter de Clifford, lord of Bronllis, for that of Estleche Turville in Gloucestershire; but the politic abbot contrived to keep the advowson of both churches in his own hands: the patronage of Glazbury was in 1805, by endowment, vested in the Bishop of Gloucester, as was the curacy of Estleche in the dean and chapter.

#### BERNARD'S DEATH AND BURIAL PLACE.

“Bernard Newmarch died in the reign of King Henry the First, and as Leland says, was buried in the cloister of the cathedral church of Gloucester; where upon the wall of the chapter-house was inscribed, *Hic jacet Bernardus de novo mercatu*, though the inhabitants of Brecknock used to show his monument in the Priory Church of that town. What family he left we know not with any certainty. Giraldus Cambrensis notices only two, Mahel and Sibil, yet Bernard in his charter to the monks of Brecknock, speaks of *sons* and *daughters*, and particularly mentions, that he gives Costinio for the welfare of the soul of his son *Phillip*. Giraldus tells us, that according to the just laws of inheritance, Mahel should have succeeded to his father's property, but that the persecution of an infamous woman deprived him of his right. It seems this unfortunate young man, having provoked the vengeance of his wicked and unnatural mother, by the discovery of a shameful intrigue carried on by her with a certain knight, whose name is not now known, was by the machinations and vile arts of the self-convicted adulteress (who made oath before Henry the First king of England, that Mahel was not the son of her husband Bernard Newmarch) declared to be illegitimate and deprived of his inheritance, which upon his exclusion, devolved to Miles or Milo of Gloucester, son of Walter constable of England, who, by his interest at court, had obtained the sister of Mahel in marriage. Philip therefore and any other sons Bernard may have had, must have died in the lifetime of their father, unless the will and power of Henry prevailed to set aside the common law of descent.

#### FAMILIES SPRUNG FROM BLEDDIN AP MAENARCH.

“Before we proceed to follow the descendants of the Normans, it may not be amiss to return for a moment to the issue of Bleddin ap Maenarch, and to show generally the families who are sprung from him.

“Gwrgan, though narrowly watched by the dependants and friends of Bernard Newmarch, as has been seen, was yet permitted to form a connection which produced him a valuable accession of territory and added no inconsiderable weight to his political importance in the principality. He married Gwenllian, daughter and heiress of Philip Gwys, lord of Gwyston, since called Wiston, in Pembroke-shire, a baron of high rank and great power in his day: with her he had this lordship, as a marriage portion, which he gave to his eldest son, called Sir Walter Gwrgan or Wogan. This branch preserved the name with a trifling alteration, and until within a very few years back continued to reside at Wiston, the venerable mansion of the family: the male line is now extinct. Cadifor, another of the sons of Gwrgan, possessed himself of the lordship of Glyntawe in Brecknockshire, and part of Gower

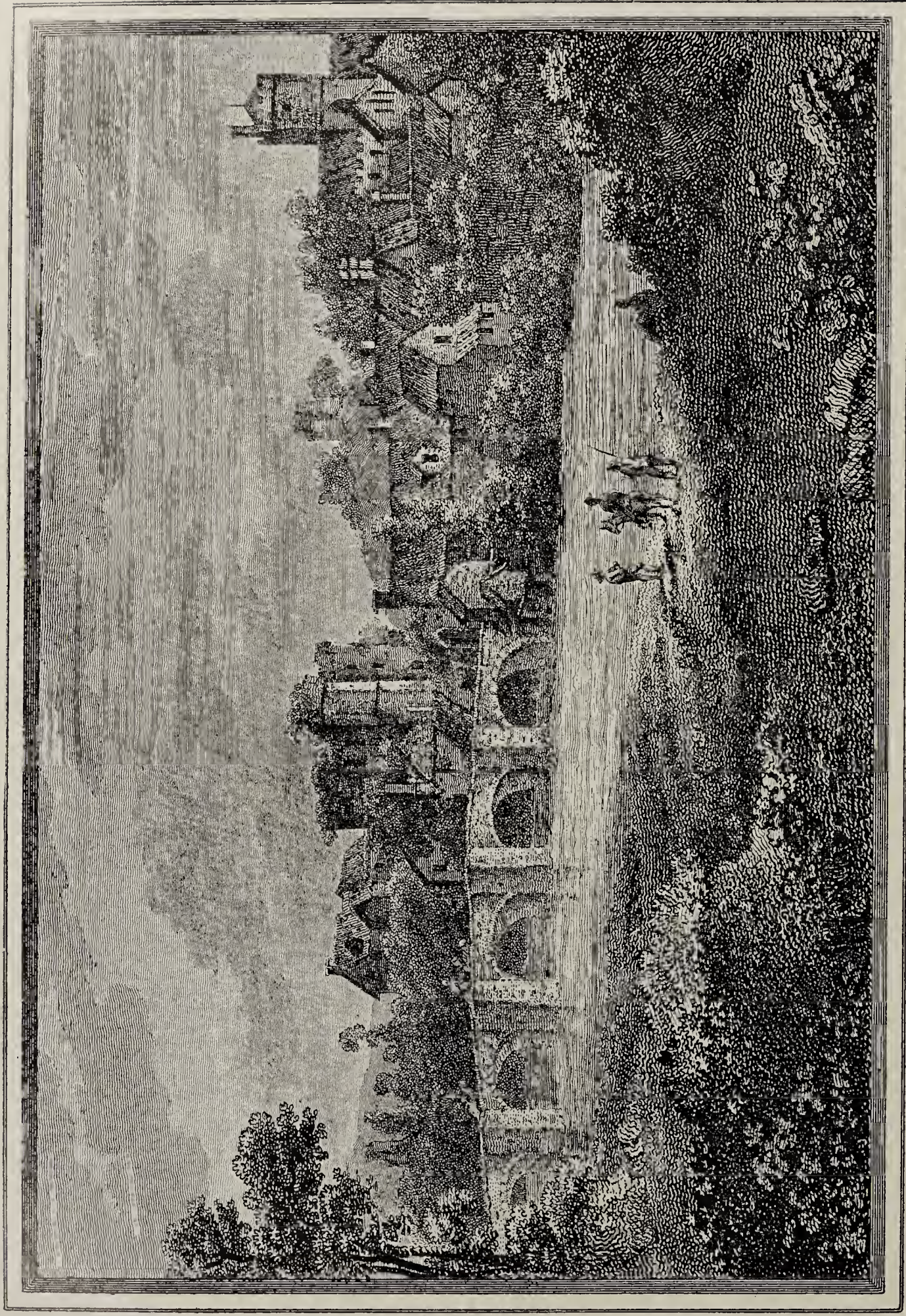
<sup>1</sup> In the original, “*carucatam terræ*” and sometimes *caruca*; a plough-land or as much arable land as could be ploughed with one plough, during the sowing season: the measure of a carucate was different according to time and place: in the reign of Richard the Second, it was computed at sixty acres, yet in another charter of the ninth of the same reign one hundred

acres are allotted to a carucate. Fleta who wrote in the reign of Edward the First says, that if lands lay in three common fields, a carucate consisted of one hundred and eighty acres, sixty for winter tillage, sixty for spring tillage, and sixty for fallow, but if the lands lay in two fields, then one hundred and sixty acres to a carucate, one half for tillage and the other for fallow.









USK BRIDGE AT BRECKNOCK IN 1805

*(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).*



in Glamorganshire, though how he acquired them does not appear; his son Griffith Gwyr, or Griffith of Gower, had a mesne lordship and lands in that tract. He left numerous descendants in Glamorganshire, who assumed numerous surnames; among them is the family of Jones of Fonmon, who still bears the arms of his ancestor Bleddin ap Maenarch, sable a chevron between three spears' heads argent, their points imbrued with blood proper.

"To Trahaern, his second son, Gwrgan left Aberllyfni, near Glazbury, where he resided, and Llanfihangel tal y llyn. He married Ioan, daughter of Sir Einion ap Bledri; his descendants in the fourth generation were David and Einion, the latter was called from his long residence in England Einion Sais, or the Englishman. The families sprung from David, were Lewis of Ffrwdgrech, Llangorse, and Pennant, Talachddu and Manachddu in Radnorshire, Thomas of Slwch, now extinct, Maddocks of Llanfrynach, and Jeffreys of Llywel and Brecknock. From Einion Sais are descended, Williams of Gwernfyed, Cabalfa in Radnorshire, and Gaer in Breconshire; this last branch failed in the male line with David Williams<sup>1</sup> of Gaer, who died in 1783: from Einion likewise sprung Sir David Gam, and of course the families of Games and Morgans of Penderrin, now of Brecknock. From Cadivor, the third son of Gwrgan, are descended the Powels of Cantref, Swansea, and Peterstone in Breconshire, Powel of Maesmawr, and Jones of Trebinshwn, now extinct, and Howel, the fourth son, was the ancestor of the family of Sais of Boverton and Swansea. Having thus briefly given the issue and posterity of Gwrgan, it will be unnecessary to follow those of the second son of Bleddin, further than merely to observe, that the Vaughans of Bredwardine, afterwards of Tretower, Porthaml, Hergest, Trebarried, Merthyr Cynog, and Cathedine, who at one time abundantly supplied the country with inhabitants, and 'scattered their Maker's image through the land,' though they are now nearly extinct, all claim their descent from Drymbenog ap Bleddin ap Maenarch.

#### MILO LORD OF BRECKNOCK.

"Upon the death of Bernard Newmarch, his son in law Milo or Miles, surnamed Fitzwalter,<sup>2</sup> generally called Milo of Gloucester (his usual place of residence), succeeded to the lordship of Brecknock, in right of his wife Sybil, without any opposition (as far as we can learn) from his brother in law Mahel, whom the historians of these times, after the information given us of his disinherison, have thrown quietly upon the shelf, without either putting him to death or preserving the memory of any incidents that may have occurred to him in the course of his life. The right of Miles to the property his wife brought him, obtained by her mother in the foul way just related, was certainly more than questionable, and indeed the injustice of English claims in general to lands in Wales cannot be more strongly, though it be rather *marvellously* demonstrated, than by the admission of the King of England himself, as related by Giraldus Cambrensis. Henry the First, being in conversation with this nobleman, Miles was informing his Majesty of a strange circumstance that happened, or which he dreamt had happened, in his presence, while he was passing near the lake of Llynsavaddan or Llangorse pool in Breconshire, in company with Griffith the son of Rhys ap Tewdwr, the late Prince of Wales. 'Upon the approach of the rightful prince (says Giraldus) the birds upon the lake joined in concert, and by the clapping of their wings seemed to testify an universal joy. By the death of Christ, his usual oath, it is no wonder; there is *nothing strange in this* (says the King of England), for we have violently and injuriously oppressed that nation, as it is well known that they are the natural and original proprietors of the country.'

"In a few years afterwards, we find the grandson of this same monarch had no scrupulous or compunctious visitings of conscience, when he led an army to lay waste the county of Brecon, in his march to Pencader in Caermarthenshire to attack Rhys the son of the rightful prince Griffith, whose possessions then only consisted of the latter county and Caerdiganshire, on which occasion however he was prevailed upon to withdraw his forces and to return into England, upon receiving the homage of one of whom he was pleased to stigmatize with the epithet of rebel.

#### MILO THE FRIEND OF THE EMPRESS MAUD.

"To return to Miles. Though the mode by which he obtained his Welsh possessions cannot strictly be justified, supported as it was by the iniquitous testimony of a wretch, who in the same moment avowed her own guilt, and published her shame, yet his character both as a hero and statesman must ever stand high in the opinion of posterity. Upon the accession of Stephen, he appears to have been borne down by the tide of popular opinion and the force of numbers and to have been compelled to swear allegiance to the usurper; immediately however upon the landing of the Empress Maud, he took a decisive part in her favour, and continued her warmest and most zealous partizan

<sup>1</sup> Several of this house went to America in the beginning of the 18th century.

<sup>2</sup> Son of Walter Constable of England, by Emma, daughter of Drogo or Drue de Baladun, lord of Abergavenny.



during the whole of the remainder of his life. An old chronicle by an anonymous author has preserved an exploit by Miles soon after Stephen's assuming the crown, which if it could be depended upon would perpetuate his courage as well as gallantry, and place him almost in the same rank with Amadis de Gaul, Orlando Furioso, or any other visionary hero of romance. Lord Lyttleton, in his *Life of Henry the Second*, has erroneously referred to Giraldus Cambrensis for this anecdote, but the story of the assistance rendered by Milo to the Countess of Clare, widow of Richard Fitzgilbert or Richard de Tonbrugge, or Clare, first earl of Hertford, is quoted by Carte with more accuracy from the chronicle just mentioned, where we learn that this Richard was betrayed and murdered by the Welsh at the very time when he proposed joining them in an insurrection against the King of England, and that his lady, who was sister to the Earl of Chester, being soon after the death of her husband besieged in one of his castles in Caerdiganshire, with scarcely any expectations of relief, was almost miraculously saved from death, or perhaps a more ignominious fate, by the interference and bravery of Milo Fitzwalter, who with a handful of men, at the *command of King Stephen*, marched through an enemy's country, over the tops of mountains and through imperious wilds and brought her and her whole suite safe into England, leaving the besiegers to batter bare walls and to plunder a deserted fortress.

#### DEATH OF THE EARL OF CLARE.

"The Welsh chronicle gives a very different account of the death of the earl of Clare and the siege of his castle. In the year (1138) there was a dispute between king Stephen and his nobles (says this history) and the king laid siege to Lincoln, where they were assembled. To their assistance came Robert Consul, who brought a great army of Welshmen with him, to support the cause of his sister Maud, who had married the emperor of Germany; with Robert also came Ralph, Earl of Chester, and the men of Rhyfoniog and Tegengyl and *Gilbert*, earl of Clare, with a strong force from Dyfed. And the Norman and Saxon nobility pressed hard upon the king and took him prisoner, and in that battle the valour of the Welsh was particularly conspicuous. In this conflict, Iorwerth, ap Owen ap Caradoc, led the van, leaving the earl of Clare in his rear; this, the earl resented highly, and soon afterwards seeing Iorwerth by the river side fishing, he struck him a violent blow on the ear, at the same time calling him a clownish Welshman, and telling him he was totally ignorant of the manners of a gentleman, or he would not have presumed to take the lead of his superior. The Briton, though he might want politeness, certainly did not want courage, the only answer therefore he returned to this rude address (as far as now appears) was by laying the assailant dead at his feet with one blow of his fist. Upon hearing of this event, the Welsh immediately laid siege to the castle of Uwchtryd in Caerdiganshire, to which place the countess of Clare had retired from Caermarthen for safety, and compelled the garrison to fly for their lives.

"Thus differently related are the transactions of these days by the historians of the two different countries. The reader will determine to which he will give credit. The whole story, as related by the *Gesta Regis Stephani*, appears to be extremely doubtful as well as improbable and not sufficiently authenticated. Giraldus Cambrensis, though he wrote soon after this supposed event, and though he frequently mentions the name of Milo Fitzwalter, says not a syllable of his having rescued the Countess of Clare from her enemies, and the whole of this tale, unsupported as it is, except by an anonymous writer, savours too much of the marvellous. On the other hand, the Welsh were so far from distinguishing themselves in this fight, though their defeat throws little, if any, disgrace upon their national character, that being thinly clad and poorly armed, they were put to flight on the first onset of the king's troops under William D'Ypres, whose coats of mail and "ribs of steel" were impenetrable to the rude weapons of the mountaineers. The name of Gilbert has likewise been inaccurately introduced by the British historian, instead of Richard Fitzgilbert, and the latter part of the account,—in which the lady and the garrison, who fled into the castle for safety, are made to fly out of it for the same purpose into the very heart of an enemy's country,—is confused if not incredible.

#### MILO FITZWALTER CREATED EARL OF HEREFORD.

"Milo Fitzwalter was another knight of the *dolorous tower*, or *ceidwad y castell dolurus*, being in his own right as constable of all England, governor or keeper of the king's castle of Gloucester (for it was then a royal fortress). He had a considerable property in and about this city, and here he generally resided. Stephen, king of England, soon after his accession to the throne, granted by charter to him and his heirs, this his patrimony, as well as the lordship of Brecknock, as fully as he enjoyed them in the time of the late king, and in this fortress Milo received, in his official capacity, his sovereign after the battle of Bedford, or as some say, in his return from his journey to Scotland. From this place and at this time, if the account just mentioned be correct, he must



have been dispatched by Stephen to the relief of the Countess of Clare, as he never afterwards appeared in the character of the king's friend or subject; for upon the arrival of the Empress Maud in this island (as has been just mentioned), being either satisfied of her right to the crown, or persuaded by her half brother, Robert, earl of Gloucester, a natural son of Henry the First, and in right of his wife, the daughter of Robert Fitzhammon, also lord of Glamorgan, he joined her with all his forces, and supported her by every exertion in his power. His influence was at this time very considerable, as he had not only the seigniorship of the whole of Brecknockshire, but also ample possessions in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. 'The power of this baron (says the noble author of the *Life of Henry the Second*) was of no less use to Matilda, than his personal talents: very few men in those times were comparable to him, either in counsel or action. By his activity, valour and discretion, and the abilities of the earl of Gloucester, who had all the great qualities that are necessary in the head of a party, and all the virtues that could be consistent with the unhappy necessities of that situation, the cause of the Empress was supported, and with their help, she gained strength, though unassisted by any foreign power, and without any other means than what she drew from the war itself, or from the voluntary aid of her friends, being in such want of money, that even her household and table were kept at Milo's expence in the castle of Gloucester.' In reward for his services, the Empress in 1141 created him Earl of Hereford, and together with the title, she gave him real fiefs, for by the instrument of his creation, the first of its kind in English history, she gave him the moat and castle of Hereford, the third penny of the rent of the borough, and the third penny of the pleas of the whole county, the manors of Mawardine (Marden), Lugwardine, Wilton, Hay Hereford, the forest of *Trinela*, and lastly the services of Robert de Chandos, Hugh Fitzwilliam and Robert de Cormeill. This document, dated at Hereford, is attested, among many others, by David king of Scotland, Bernard bishop of Saint David's, Robert earl of Gloucester, and Humphrey de Bohun the first.

## MILO'S SEAL FOUND AT ANDOVER.

"To follow Miles through the different struggles and vicissitudes of fortune, which occurred in his short career, would be foreign to our purpose; suffice it to say, that he served his mistress ably and faithfully, as well in adversity as prosperity. Unluckily for her, perhaps happily for the nation (for she knew not how to conduct herself when in power), she was deprived of the talents and assistance of this great man; he was shot accidentally through the heart by an arrow, by one of his own knights, who accompanied him in hunting, and who aimed at a stag passing between them. This happened on Christmas eve 1143, or as others 1144. His continued exertions in favour and support of the cause he espoused in England, though of infinite advantage to the party he served, left him little time to attend to his possessions in Wales, which he seldom if ever visited; he is not found among the benefactors to the monastery or contributors to the liberties of the town of Brecon, although the *benevolence*<sup>1</sup> of the Welshmen frequently furnished a part of the repast of her imperial majesty, and his other guests of Gloucester. In the year 1795, an ancient seal of this earl was found by some labourers who were digging in a field near Andover in Hampshire—(as recorded in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, September 1795)—in the direct line between the city of Winchester and Luggershall, to which latter place the Empress escaped in her way to Devizes: it is probable her friend Miles, who was compelled to pass the enemy's camp barefooted, and in the disguise of a beggar, in order to join his royal mistress at Gloucester, threw away this tell-tale badge of distinction in the field where it was picked up, to effect his purpose with less risk of being discovered. It was of silver and weighed three ounces and three penny weights, quite plain on the reverse, and had a neck or loop on the top, for ribband, by which it was most probably suspended and worn, as a badge or ornament.

"Milo was buried in the chapter house of Saint Mary de Lantoni, near Gloucester, of which he was the founder; his wife Sybil was placed on his right side. He left five sons, each of whom, excepting William, enjoyed his property, and three daughters, Margery married to Humphrey de Bohun, Bertha to Phillip de Breos, and Lucy to Herbert Fitzherbert.

## ROGER FITZWALTER'S QUARREL WITH HENRY II.

"Upon the death of Milo Fitzwalter, his eldest son Roger succeeded to the earldom of Hereford and lordship of Brecknock, together with most of his father's possessions; he married Cecilia,

<sup>1</sup> Upon the conquest of Breconshire by Bernard Newmarch and upon erecting castles in the county by the Normans, they compelled the tenantry to provide a certain number of cattle for the lord's larder yearly, in proportion to the quantity of lands they held; this exaction (in an insulting and sarcastic phraseology)

they called "the *benevolence* of the Welshmen." The *Vuwelh Larder* or memento of this custom or subjection was known and recollected early in the 18th century, and the figure of a cow, rudely carved in wood, was seen over a window in the manor house within the castle of Brecknock in 1805.



daughter of Payne Fitzjohn, a privy counsellor of Henry the First, and lord of Ewyas in Herefordshire, in whose right he became possessed of that territory. Carte says he was an active, valiant, and deserving man, but young and inexperienced and unequal to his father: he possessed an early attachment to Henry the Second, the son of his father's friend the Empress Maud. Upon the arrival of that prince in England, he accompanied him to the court of David King of Scotland, who had promised him assistance to oppose the arms of Stephen, and had in other instances shewn a sincere regard for his interest. Soon after the succession however of that great and good monarch to the throne of England, the harmony which subsisted between them was interrupted. Stephen, who during the whole of his life lay at the mercy of his nobles, and had not the power of resisting their exorbitant demands, had alienated so much of the crown demesnes, that a sufficiency was not left to maintain the royal dignity. Some cities and forts had been granted away, which it would have been imprudent to have permitted to remain in the hands of those to whom they were given, as the possessors were supposed to be inimical to the power of the crown and the peace of the nation. Henry found it absolutely necessary to recall most of these grants without discrimination whether made by Stephen or his mother; but the sound policy which dictated, and the impartiality with which this measure was executed, was neither admitted or approved of by the young lord of Brecknock. He could not comprehend or believe that private gratitude should give way to public advantage, or that the foes and friends of the monarch should be treated by the same rule. He was also encouraged and instigated to resistance by the Earl of Yorkshire and Roger de Mortimer, both of whom were likely to suffer by this resolution of the king; but Henry was no common opponent. It was the will of Providence that he should be humbled, to convince him, as well as posterity, of the vanity of human grandeur, and the imbecility of the wisest designs of princes, yet one only of his subjects could resist him with impunity, and even he, after having spurned at the power that raised him and distracted and divided the kingdom into parties, at last fell a sacrifice to the general, though too ardent attachment to the sovereign. Gilbert Foliot, bishop of Hereford, a wise and virtuous prelate and a kinsman and friend to Earl Roger, saw the precipice to which he was approaching and warned him in time of his danger: by seasonable and sound arguments he prevailed upon him to give up to Henry the castles of Gloucester and Hereford, which he claimed. Henry not only pardoned but restored the earl to favour; for though the rigid rules of justice compelled him to act with this apparent harshness towards the son of his mother's best friend, it was impossible to overlook the hardship of his case, and to avoid lamenting that it should become necessary to include him in the same class with the descendants of the depredators of the late reign, and therefore it is by no means improbable, that Henry commissioned the bishop to hint to him the consequences of his submission. Camden says, the moat and castle of Hereford were restored to him with all the original privileges attached to the earldom.

#### REVIEW OF ROGER'S CHARACTER.

"It is very extraordinary that we know not with certainty whether this earl was a very good or a very bad man; we are informed that he was active and valiant, and we have seen that he was hasty and impetuous, but whether a few crimes, such as homicide or murder, sacrilege, rapes or such fashionable offences of the day, suggested his numerous benefactions to the church, or they were really dictated by devotion, we know not. Both these motives, though of so opposite complexions and natures, were beneficial to the temporary concerns of the religious of those times, but inasmuch as crimes were more prevalent than piety, the doctrine of compensation was the most productive of the two. If a neighbouring baron or rich man was troublesome, and by accident or the chances of war fell into the power of his adversary or superior, he was knocked on the head, and by this means three principal points were gained. In the first place the great man "thank'd God he was rid of a knave," in the second he industriously employed himself in securing the effects of his late prisoner, part of which he appropriated to the benefit of some religious house, and lastly by this gift he not only rubbed off a long score of guilt from his conscience, but advanced considerably on his road to future happiness, and he also, in a case of this kind, had an irresistible claim upon the monks for their intercessions and prayers, which after such a clear proof of the sinner's repentance were always presumed to be efficacious. As however history has not recorded any flagitious actions of this young man, or branded his character with opprobrium, charity should induce us to attribute his donations to laudable motives, and under this impression we proceed to enumerate them.

#### HIS BENEFACTIONS TO THE MONKS AT BRECKNOCK.

"To the monks of Brecknock he was particularly munificent and bountiful, having augmented their privileges and revenues by five several charters now extant. By the first charter he granted the prior and convent the privilege of maintaining their own jurisdiction in all things, within such



liberties as were consistent with the dignity of holy mother church; he also thereby granted them the land of Saint Paulinus upon the mere (now called Llangorse pool), with the liberty of fishing in the mere three days of the week, and every day during the terms of lent and advent; he gave them the tythes of all his colts, calves, lambs, cheese, wool and flax and of all things tythable within the forest, throughout the whole lordship of Brecknock, and the tythes of whatever might be provided for consumption within his demesne, whether he should be absent or present; the tythes of his larder<sup>1</sup> at Hay; the tythes of all cattle arising from the *free gift of the Welshmen*; the tythes of whatever plunder he took in war<sup>2</sup> from his enemies, and also a free right of commonage throughout his whole territory of Brecknock, and lastly he confirmed and enlarged the charter of his grandfather Bernard de Newmarch.

“In the second charter he confirmed their full, free and peaceable jurisdiction over all their tenants, lands and possessions, and all things relating thereto; he granted them the tythes of all bread and drink, which should be expended in his castle of Brecknock and in all other his demesnes throughout the lordship of Brecknock, or in lieu thereof (to guard against the peculation or neglect of servants), the tythes of all his corn at the doors of his grange at the castle of Brecknock, at Talgarth and Hay; likewise of all pulse which after the first tything<sup>3</sup> should be discharged from the claims of other churches to which they had been before granted, and should any lands or manors out of the lordship of Brecknock by any event come into his hands, he granted them the like privileges therein! He also gave them the tythes of all tolls<sup>4</sup> arising from the carriage of goods from his lordships in England to his territories in Wales; he confirmed to them the churches of Talgarth, Mara or (Llangorse), Llanigon, Llangelen (perhaps Llanellieu), and Cathedin, also the English churches mentioned in the charter of Newmarch; he gave them the tythes of the profits of all his pleas, tolls, gifts and returns issuing from Brecknock, and of all goods and chattels which he had gained in Wales; he also renewed and confirmed to them the right of fishing and free pasturage as mentioned in his former charter.

“By the third charter he again confirmed to them their right of jurisdiction, &c.; granted to them a certain ruined city, or rather the site of a city called Carneys, with its dependencies, extending from Aberescir, as far as the brook of Cilieni<sup>5</sup> and Llanywern as far as Maeslydan. He also gave them all the mills within the parish of Brecknock, with the entire tolls<sup>6</sup> thereof and all the customs, liberties and appurtenances belonging thereto, and he prohibited the erection of any other mill within the parish, excepting by the monks alone; he also granted them certain lands called Trewalkin and Penllanavel, &c., and concluded by a recital and renewal of his former grants. The fourth charter is little more than a confirmation of his former benefactions, with the addition of the tythes of pigs of his pannage.<sup>7</sup>

“The fifth charter is noticed by inspeximus in one of Henry the Fourth, though not inserted in Dugdale; by this he confirmed to the monks, in perpetual alms, certain lands given them by Osmond de Traneleia, with a burgage in Brecknock and an acre of ground without the wall (extra Barram).

“Besides these donations to the monastery or Priory of Brecknock he gave in perpetual alms to the church of our lady within the valley of Dor, or rather D’or (or the golden valley), all his land which lieth from the head of the well called Ailburwell the More, on the side towards the forest, with common of pasture with the appurtenances. He also gave to the church of St. Mary at Clifford in Herefordshire, and to the monks of Saint Pancratius there, the full liberty of buying and

<sup>1</sup> Larder from the old Norman French “Lardier” a room for keeping provisions. The Normans had one in every castle, which was principally supplied by the *benevolence of the Welshmen*.

<sup>2</sup> Singular as this grant now appears, there is a precedent for it as far back as the days of Abraham; for we find by Genesis, c. 14, v. 20, that that Patriarch gave tythes of all, meaning (as Bishop Patrick in his commentary very properly observes) the tythes of all the spoil which he had taken from Chedorlaomer and other kings in battle, to Melchisedeck, or the church: the same learned prelate remarks that Diodorus Siculus reports the same customs to have prevailed among the Greeks, and repeated proofs may be produced from many Roman authors of offerings to the Gods of part of the plunder taken from their enemies.

<sup>3</sup> For the elucidation of this passage, it may be necessary to remind the reader, that Bernard Newmarch had before granted considerable tythes in this county to the monks of Gloucester, as had Earl Miles to the monks of Malvern, which claims must necessarily be satisfied, before this extraordinary grant of earl

Roger could possibly have effect.

<sup>4</sup> Summagium, (the Latin word in the original) signifies a horse load or rather the toll for the carriage of each horseload.

<sup>5</sup> Kilinot in the original, and in another charter Kilimot, Cilieni however we presume is meant. This is a river which falls into the Usk on the North side about seven miles above Brecon, and four or five above the Escir. Maeslydan (Broadfield) is called in the old charters Nantsludin.

<sup>6</sup> Cum tota moltura, from molo to grind signifies sometimes grist or a sack of corn brought to the mill to be ground, but more frequently, as here, the toll paid for grinding; thus, moltura libera, free grinding, or a right to grind without paying toll; a privilege which the lord usually reserved to his own family.

<sup>7</sup> “De pannagio meo,” pannage in Norman French signifies acorning; or the collecting of acorns for feeding swine, afterwards Pannagium meant a sum paid for leave to feed swine in a forest or wood of another person, by one who had no right to the soil; it is sometimes written pathnagium and pasnagium; foresters call it pannage.



selling all commodities. free from all gabels and tolls and exempted from all fines, suits and customs whatsoever, within the territories of Hay and Brecknock and all other his possessions on that side of the river Wye. To the knight templars he gave certain lands near Gloucester bridge, and to the knights hospitallers his mill at Towcester, belonging to the preceptory of Shedgay: he founded the abbey of Flaxley<sup>1</sup> in Gloucestershire, and at length became himself a monk in the abbey of Gloucester, upon which he settled a rent charge of one hundred shillings a year, payable out of his estates in Herefordshire. He died in 1156 without issue and was buried near his grandfather Bernard Newmarch, in the place converted into the college library at Gloucester.

#### THE SONS OF MILES, EARL OF HEREFORD.

"It is remarkable that Sir William Dugdale in the *Monasticon* makes *Henry*, and in his *Baronage* *Walter*, to be the second son of Miles earl of Hereford. The former must have been a typographical mistake, as it is manifest from a variety of evidence that Walter had the advantage of his brother Henry in primogeniture. In the father's charter to the priory of Lantoni secunda, he speaks of his sons Roger, Walter and Henry; the same rotation is observed in the inspeximus of that charter by King John. In Holland and in Edmondson's list of constables of England, Walter immediately follows his brother Roger, and in their brother Mahel's charter to the monks of Brecknock he says, 'Whatever my brothers earl Roger, Walter the constable, and Henry and their tenants granted to the said church, &c., I have confirmed.' In this Walter (who undoubtedly succeeded his brother Roger as constable of England, though Robert Montenci says Henry took the earldom of Hereford into his own hands) were united the lordships of Brecknock and Overwent. According to Leland 'the hole lordship of Abergavenny makith the cumpace of Hye Wetland': this territory, which under the British princes of Gwent or Morganwg had been governed by its own native reguli, was first conquered by Hammeline the son of Dru or Drogo de Baladun, who soon after the conquest built a castle on the site of one formerly occupied by a British chieftain of the name of Agros. Hammeline died in the reign of Wm. Rufus, and was buried in the priory of Benedictines at Abergavenny, which he had founded. By default of issue, the castle, with the lordship of Overwent appendant thereto, descended to his nephew, surnamed De insula or Fitzcomte, who having two sons afflicted with the leprosy, placed them in the priory, which he liberally endowed with lands, advowsons of churches, and the tythes of the castle. At length, seized with the religious frenzy of the times, he took up the cross and went to Jerusalem, leaving the whole of his property to his cousin Walter, constable of England, who afterwards during the life time of his son Miles settled it upon his grandson Walter de Hereford. In the year 1155 Walter occurs as high sheriff for the county of Gloucester, and the eleventh of Henry the Second for Herefordshire, of which county he is the first recorded sheriff. In lieu of the hundred shillings settled on the monks of Gloucester by his brother earl Roger, he granted them six virgates of land.

#### HENRY DE HEREFORD, AND MAHEL, SUCCEED TO THE LORDSHIP.

Upon the death of Walter, the lordship of Brecknock became the inheritance of Henry de Hereford, third son of Milo, which however he lived to enjoy only for a short time. Dugdale says he was killed by one Senel the son of Donwald, near Arnold's castle in upper Wentland, and that he was buried in Lantoni prima; according to Leland, in Lantoni near Gloucester. Whether this slayer was an English or a Welshman does not appear; probably from the place of Henry's death he was of the latter country, and perhaps Senel the son of Donwald is an anglicism for Sitsyllt ap Dyfnwal, a man of considerable property and weight at that time in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny. Dr. Powel in his Welsh history, observes that towards the latter end of the year 1172, 'Sitsyllt ap Dyfnwal and Jeuan ap Sitsyllt ap Riryd got the castle of Abergavenny upon the sudden and took the king's garrison prisoners.' Maddox in his *Baronia Anglicana* speaks of certain lands called Donewalde's lands within the town of Abergavenny, as having been the subject of a legal dispute in the time of Edward the First: these were undoubtedly Tyr Dyfnwal or Dyfnwal's lands.

#### MAHEL'S CHARACTER AND DEATH.

"Mahel de Hereford, who received his christian name in compliment to his gallant but unfortunate and disinherited uncle, succeeded his brother Henry, upon his death without issue. He is painted as a monster of rapacity and boundless ambition and avarice, 'inhumana præ cæteris crudelitate notabilis,' but his oppressions and most flagrant acts of injustice were particularly directed against David Fitzgerald, the second of that name, bishop of Saint David's, whom he distressed by

<sup>1</sup> Leland says "there was a brother of Roger erle of Hereford that was kyllyd in the veri place where the abbaye syns was made. Ther was a table of the matier hangged up in the church

of Flealey." Itin. vol. 8. p. 66. Leland or his informant is incorrect, the table was most likely meant to commemorate the death of Milo at this place.



every means in his power, encroaching upon his property, and harassing his tenants, insomuch that he finally drove the prelate out of the country, according to Giraldus Cambrensis, who gives the following account of Mahel's death. 'It happened (says he) that while Mahel was upon a visit to Walter de Clifford at Brendlais castle, the building by some accident took fire, and he was mortally wounded by a stone which fell from the top of the principal tower upon his head: upon this, he immediately dispatched messengers to the bishop whom he had persecuted, and solicited his return, at the same time exclaiming in a tone of deep anguish, Oh father and bishop of our souls! thine Holy one hath exercised too severe a vengeance upon me, not waiting for the conversion of a sinner, but rather hastening his death and utter destruction; and having frequently repeated these words, accompanied with groans and deep sighs, he ended his life and tyranny together before he had completed the first year of his possession of his father's property, and died the herald of his own confusion.' This catastrophe is noticed by Camden in his description of Gloucestershire, as well as by Sir Robert Atkyns in his history of that county, but they are both evidently mistaken as to the scene of action, which they place at St. Briavels or Breulais in the Forest of Dean, whereas Giraldus, professedly writing from Brecknockshire, calls the castle Brendlais, which Powel in a note explains Brunellys, now written Bronllys, Brynllys and Brwynllys; it lies within less than half a mile of Talgarth in that county, and both Leland and Dugdale inform us, that the Cliffords were the antient lords and proprietors of that fortress.

"However strongly this monster Mahel might have been prejudiced against the bishop of Saint David's, yet out of regard to the health of his own soul and the souls of his father, mother, brothers and ancestors, and out of respect to *Geoffrey the cook*, an old servant of the family, whom his brother Henry had converted into a monk, he granted a charter to the monastery of Brecon, whereby he confirmed all former gifts to them, and gave five shillings a year towards purchasing lights and other purposes, which he supposed would be beneficial to the brotherhood. This charter, among others, is attested by Humphrey de Bohun his nephew, Walter de Clifford, Ralph de Buscheville (Baskerville), Philip de Burghull (now called Burfield) the butler, Roger Picart and William Weldeboef, now written Walbeoff. William, the youngest son of Milo, died without issue, during the life time of his eldest brother; so that the male line being now extinct, the sisters coheiresses succeeded to the inheritance. Margaret, the eldest daughter, married Humphrey de Bohun, who in her right succeeded to the constablership of England and to the lordship and patronage of Llantoni; he was also created earl of Hereford. Bertha married Philip de Breos, lord of Builth,<sup>1</sup> which he acquired by conquest; he had with her the lordships of Brecknock, Abergavenny and *Gower*; and Luey married Henry Fitzherbert, whose possessions were chiefly in and near the Forest of Dean, and who had also other lands in England.

"The family of *Brus*—(as it is written in Stowe's roll, copied from Seriven's MS. though spelt differently Breos, de Breos, Breosa, Braiosa, Braosa and de Braosa<sup>2</sup> by different authors)—came into England with the Conqueror and settled first in the county of Sussex. William the father of Philip, our first Breconshire lord of that name, married the wealthy heiress of Johel de Totness and Barnstable in the county of Devon, with whom he obtained a splendid fortune: that his lands in England were of no small extent is evident from the general survey in Domesday Book, by which it appears, that he possessed the lordship of Sudcote in Berkshire, Essage in Wilts, Todeham and Boekeham in Surrey, half a hyde of lands in Petham hundred in Hants, twelve lordships in Dorsetshire and no less than *forty one* in Sussex, among which Brambre, where he obtained a licence to build a castle, was his principal residence: he settled the churches of St. Nicholas at Brambre, St. Peter at Sele, St. Nicholas at Shoreham and St. Peter at Vipont, all in the county of Surrey, upon the monks of St. Florence de Salmure, more commonly called Somars in France.

## SOME ACCOUNT OF MOL WALBEE.

"His only son and successor Philip gave to the abbey of Lewes four of the salt works in the same town and confirmed some donations made them by his father. In the ninth of William Rufus,

<sup>1</sup> Of the expedition of this Philip de Breos into Wales and his conquest of Builth we have no further account; but it is by no means improbable that he likewise accompanied Roger de Newburgh when he came to the assistance of Bernard Newmarch in 1098 or thereabouts, and that he was rewarded with the country of Builth after he had reduced the inhabitants to subjection.

<sup>2</sup> In a charter of king John, one of this family is called Braiosa: by this instrument John grants to Wm. de Braiosa and his heirs, that neither sheriff or other minister of the crown

should enter into the lands of William pertaining to the honour of Braiosa, to do any part of his office there, and that when the king's justices itinerant came to Faleise to hold pleas of the crown, William was to provide them with necessaries for one day at Braiosa; by this charter he also grants several privileges and exemptions to the feudatories and tenants of William in this lordship or honour; so that it appears this family had considerable possessions in Normandy when they came over with the Conqueror, which they retained for a long time after their settlement in England.



Philip de Breos was one of those noblemen who adhered to the king against Robert Court-hose duke of Normandy. In the fourth of Henry the First (A.D. 1104) he came to an agreement with the abbot of Feschamp at Salisbury, in the presence of the king and queen, concerning some claims made by the abbot to certain lands at Steyning in Sussex, a cell to Feschamp. Having afterwards rebelled against his sovereign, his property was confiscated and his possessions were seized by the crown. By his marriage with Bertha the daughter of Milo Fitzwalter, he became in her right, seized of the lordships of Abergavenny, Brecknock and Gower, and to his sword and the favor of Bernard Newmarch he owed the dominion over the country of Builth: he died early in the reign of Henry the Second, in what year is not known, leaving two sons, William and Philip. William, to whom the lordships of Brecknock and Abergavenny, together with the remainder of his father's immense possessions, descended, married Maud daughter of Reginald de St. Waleri, with whom he had the manor of Tetbury in Gloucestershire. This lady is the *Semiramis* of Breconshire; she is called in the pedigrees, as well as in King John's letter or manifesto, Maud de Haia, either from her having rebuilt this castle or from its being principally the place of her residence: most likely for the former reason, for within the limits of the county of Brecon she is an *Ubiquarian*. Under the corrupted name of *Mol*<sup>1</sup> *Walbee* we have her castles on every eminence and her feats are traditionally narrated in every parish. She built (says the gossips) the castle of Hay in one night; the stones<sup>2</sup> for which she carried in her apron. While she was thus employed, a *small pebble*, about nine feet long and one foot thick, dropped into her shoe: this she did not at first regard, but in a short time, finding it troublesome, she indignantly threw it over the river Wye, into the Llowes churchyard in Radnorshire (about three miles off), where it remains to this day<sup>3</sup> precisely in the position it fell, a stubborn memorial of the *historical fact*, to the utter confusion of all sceptics and unbelievers. It is very extraordinary what could have procured to Maud this more than mortal celebrity: she was no doubt a woman of masculine understanding and spirit, yet her exploits in Breconshire, where she is so famous, are not detailed either by history or tradition, except in the absurd tale just related. King John in his declaration against de Breos seems to hint pretty clearly that the gray mare was the better horse, and it is evident, whatever her merit was, that she had considerable influence and interest in this county, as her name, though corrupted, is familiar to every peasant, while her husband's is unknown, or known only to be detested.

#### AN EXPEDITION INTO IRELAND.

"In third Henry II. we find William de Breos, the husband of this virago, paying a fine of one hundred marks of silver for his moiety of the manor of Barnstaple, of which his grandfather Johel de Totnais or Totness for some misdemeanour had been deprived by William Rufus; it is probable therefore, that Totness was also at this time restored to de Breos. In the tenth year of this reign, William de Breos occurs as one of the witnesses to the recognition called the constitutions of Clarendon, and in the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first of the same king he was sheriff of Herefordshire.

"Though the power as well as the wealth of this baron was very considerable, we do not hear of his exploits during the reign of Henry the Second, with whom it seems he was in high favour. His younger brother Philip de Breos had a grant from that monarch of the whole province of North Munster in Ireland, except the city of Limerick, and the *only* preliminary required towards the establishment of his government was the *conquest* of the country. To assist him in his enterprise he took with him Milo de Cogan, William Fitzstephen, and about four hundred and twenty horse and foot; they marched to the borders of the Shannon, when finding that the taking possession of the land was not a mere ceremony, but might be attended with some hard fighting, they returned ingloriously to their sovereign, to relate the misfortunes of their expedition and to exaggerate the difficulties they encountered. Henry however was not to be deterred or frightened by bugbears; he embarked in person for Ireland, and with him went the defeated Philip de Breos, who either encouraged by the presence of his sovereign, or ashamed of his former misconduct, now exerted himself in wiping off the disgrace which attached to him, and by the assistance of Henry seated himself firmly in his government, in possession of which his benefactor left him, as well as several other English knights, who had obtained territories in that kingdom: and it will be seen hereafter, that upon the death of his brother without issue, it descended or was granted to his brother William, who lived (during

<sup>1</sup> Maud is written and pronounced Mallt in Welsh; Leland calls her Malt Albere *Marabrun*, and says she was reputed a witch.

<sup>2</sup> A rude stone effigy was in the churchyard of Hay, said to be Mol. Walbee's though we believe it to be a monk's, perhaps one of the priors of Brecon, to which house, it has been seen,

Newmarch gave the tythes of this parish. The fable of her carrying the stones and completing the castle of Hay in one night, perhaps means that she collected, or rather extorted from her tenants a sum sufficient for the purpose in a very short time.

<sup>3</sup> For engraving of this stone see *The History of Radnorshire* (Davies and Co., Brecon: 1907.)



Philip's first attempt) at the castle of Abergavenny, where he and his 'murdering ministers' involved themselves in such a scene of butchery as fortunately for mankind has seldom been paralleled.

#### MURDER OF 'WELSHMEN AT ABERGAVENNY CASTLE.

"And while it is with pain the historian records this tale of blood, he may perhaps be pardoned if he expresses a satisfaction in consigning the memory of this hypocritical villain to perpetual infamy.

"It has been seen that about five years previous to this time, the castle of Abergavenny had been delivered by the treachery of the officers of the King of England, into the hands of Sitsyllt ap Dyfnwal and Jeuan ap Ryrid, two noblemen of Gwent, after which a warfare ensued between them and Henry the Second, which was terminated in the year 1176. The castle was restored to William de Breos, and Sitsyllt and the associate of Ryrid received the king's pardon, through the intercession of Rhys ap Griffith of Dinas fawr or Dinevor. It was to congratulate Rhys upon this reconciliation, according to Powel and the Welsh chronicles, though Lord Lyttleton from Ralph de Diceto says it was to notify to Sitsyllt and his adherents an act of the English Parliament prohibiting them from wearing arms or offensive weapons, that they became the guests of William at his castle. At first they were treated with the hospitality they expected, but in the midst of their conviviality, their host, either from a design to provoke a quarrel or in obedience to the instructions of his master the King of England, made them the degrading proposal of surrendering their weapons and submitting without the power of defence to his will: to this the Britons refused with indignation to accede, whereupon the assassin gave a signal to his journeymen, who entering the room, slew the unsuspecting and unarmed Welshman, and not satisfied with this, they accompanied their employer to Sitsyllt's castle in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny, where taking his wife prisoner, they murdered her son Cadwaladr before her face and set fire to the mansion, or as others say, rased it to the ground.

"Lord Lyttleton mentions this transaction with great coolness of temper, without even expressing his indignation at the horrid scene, though he seems to be rather surprised that Henry the Second did not notice it; while Giraldus Cambrensis hints, that it was perpetrated by the orders of the English Monarch, an insinuation which should not have been thrown out without better proofs to justify him than have hitherto appeared to the world, and without which no man who reflects upon the different characters of William de Breos and his supposed employer, will acquit the one or accuse the other, however he may condemn Henry for his negligence or rather partiality in overlooking the offence. But the measure of this monster's iniquity was not yet full, though he never afterwards had an opportunity of converting his castle into a slaughter house and murdering en masse; for about the year 1198, we find him using the same artful and nefarious stratagem to entrap a chieftain of Brecknockshire, against whom he entertained a secret grudge. Trahaern Vychan, or the little, lord of Llangorse, one of the grandsons of Gwrgan ap Bleddin ap Maenarch, was invited to meet him to confer in a friendly manner upon business. Unsuspicious of treachery and of course unprepared for defence, the descendant of Cradoc of the Strong Arm instantly determined to attend to the request, or to obey the command of his powerful neighbour and superior, who met him upon his road not far from Brecknock, ordered his blood hounds to seize him, tied him to a horse's tail and in that situation ignominiously and cruelly dragged him through the streets of that town, after which he was beheaded and his body suspended upon a gallows for three successive days.

#### GREAT BATTLES AT ABERGAVENNY AND COLWEN CASTLES.

"Repeated acts of tyranny and oppression will make even cowards brave: how strong and implacable then must have been the resentment of the Welsh, 'a people brave and irascible, bred upon their mountains, the indigenous children of freedom'? The castle of Abergavenny was unable to withstand the fury of the men of Gwent, who levelled it with the ground, and the whole garrison left there by de Breos were either killed or taken prisoners; the fortress of Dingatstow near Monmouth, belonging to de Poer (at that time sheriff of Herefordshire), was reduced to a heap of ruins, and it is said, he himself with nine persons of wealth and power in the neighbourhood, were driven by the assailants into the castle ditch and there slain. Upon the assassination of Trahaern, Gwenwynwyn prince of Powis, who was connected with the family of Trahaern by marriage, determined to avenge his death; he therefore with a strong army entered into Elvel in Radnorshire and laid siege to Painscastle in that district, then the property of de Breos, vowing he would reduce to ashes the whole country from thence to Severn; a sacrifice as he conceived too small to the manes of his butchered kinsman. The want of miners however and the insufficiency of his implements of attack, which were but ill adapted to the purpose, delayed his operations so long, that the



besieged found time to solicit aid from England. Being reinforced by a strong body of troops from thence and assisted by the united powers of the lords Marehers, their spirits were revived, though they at the same time proposed terms of accommodation; these were rejected with disdain by Gwenwynwyn, who renewed his former menaces. Policy now suggested to the English lords the enlargement of Griffith son of lord Rhys, who called himself prince of South Wales, and whom they knew to be an enemy to Gwenwynwyn: upon his release, he immediately collected together a number of his partisans, joined the English and marched to the assistance of the besieged garrison of Painscastle. A bloody engagement took place in which the Prince of Powis was defeated. Mathew Paris says this battle was fought before Maud's castle called by Camden the castle of Matilda in Colwen, and he tells us that three thousand seven hundred Welshmen fell in that combat. Thus escaped for a time the cruel and oppressive lord of Brecknock, but short lived was his triumph.

#### DOWNFALL OF WILLIAM DE BREOS.

"Soon after this time, we shall see fortune entirely forsake him or only shewing her face transiently, to bring to painful recollection the days when she loaded him with her gifts; we shall see him a fugitive and a wanderer, banished from his country and possessions, or only visiting them as an outlaw, under continual apprehensions and at the peril of his life; but before we come to this period, it is but justice to observe that he appears to have entertained something like sentiments of gratitude towards his sovereign Henry the Second, as well as to his successor Richard the First, for Stowe informs us, that in 1202 he was taken prisoner by John King of England while supporting the right of Arthur the lawful heir to the crown. From this imprisonment, the usurper either from motives of pity or policy, soon released him, but he continued ever afterwards (perhaps not without reason) suspicious of him, though he loaded him with favours during the first four or five years of his reign; and upon the breaking out of the war between John and his barons, he demanded de Breos's sons as hostages for his fidelity. Upon this occasion his wife Maud de St. Walery, whom some of our chroniclers call a *malapert woman*, desired the king's messengers who made the application, to inform their master, that she would not trust her children to one who had murdered his own nephew: this answer, which was certainly more flippant than prudent, so enraged the king, that her husband was instantly banished the realm (circa 1209), and his property declared to be confiscated for the use of the crown, as Matthew Paris and all the English writers say. It no doubt contributed towards his disgrace, but let us hear the complaints of John, which as they never have been contradicted, there is no reason to disbelieve; they are contained in a letter or manifesto, making known to his subjects 'how ill William de Breosa had conducted himself;—' *quam male se gesserat Willielmus de Breosa.*'

#### RECITAL OF HIS OFFENCES, AND FLIGHT TO IRELAND.

"As the memorial is in fact a history of the latter years of this baron's life, we trust no apology is necessary for its insertion here nearly at length, or at least preserving the whole of its material contents. The first grievance recited by the king is, that William owed him on his (John's) departure from Normandy five thousand marks for the province of Munster, demised to him by the crown, and for which he paid no rent for five years; he also owed five years' rent for the city of Limerick, of this sum he only paid or *accommodated* the king with a hundred pounds at Rouen on account. As to the debt due for Munster, several terms were assigned on which he was required to pay it, yet he neglected to attend to them, wherefore after five years' neglect of payment, according to the custom of England and the law of the exchequer, it was resolved that his goods should be distrained until he made satisfaction for his debt to the crown; but the delinquent (having by some means obtained information of what was intended) caused all his property to be removed out of the way, so that no effects could be found upon which the distress could be made. Orders were therefore sent to Gerard de Athiis, the king's bailiff in Wales, that William's goods and chattels in Wales should be distrained 'till the debt was paid. Alarmed at this determination, his wife Maud de Haia, his nephew William earl Ferrars, Adam de Porter who married his sister, and many of his friends met the king at Gloucester and requested that William might be permitted to have an interview with his majesty, who coming to Hereford, in the meantime received possession from de Breosa of his castles of Hay, Brecknock and Radnor, to be held by the crown unless the debt was paid on a day appointed by himself, and besides, as hostages for his punctuality, he delivered up to the king two sons of William de Breosa the younger, a son of Reginald de Breosa and four sons of his tenants, yet notwithstanding this, he paid no more attention to the present than to his former engagements; for in a little while afterwards, when Gerard de Athiis commanded the constables of the castles surrendered by de Breos to the king, to collect the customary payment for the use of the crown, finding that the officers, to whom the care and custody of those forts had been committed were then



absent, he came with William the younger, Reginald and their sons and a vast multitude of people, and laid seige to those three fortresses in one day, and though he did not meet with the success he expected, yet he burnt one half of the town of Leominster, a cell belonging to the abbey of Reading, held under the crown in free alms, and wounded and slew most of the king's ministers there.

## WILLIAM DE BREOS RETURNS TO ENGLAND.

“When Gerard de Athiis was informed of these proceedings, having collected together as many of the king's subjects as the time would permit, he marched to the relief of the besieged places, whereupon William de Breos instantly retreated and fled into Ireland with his wife and family, where they were hospitably received by William Marshal and Walter de Laci; although both of them had been commanded on their allegiance not to entertain or maintain the enemies of the King of England, who might fly hither to avoid payment of the debts due to their sovereign. Afterwards they sent to the king and undertook that William should appear before him on a certain day, to answer for his debt and the outrages he had committed, and in case of his neglecting so to do, they engaged to send him out of Ireland and never to receive him again; yet neither he nor they kept their word. It was now determined no longer to suffer these excesses with impunity, and the king having collected his army, resolved to embark for Ireland to punish his rebellious subjects; but before his majesty could reach the place of his destination, William de Breos went to the king's bailiff in Ireland and petitioned for letters of safe conduct to enable him to make his peace with his lawful sovereign. These were granted on his being sworn to proceed without loss of time to meet the king, without any circuitry in his route or turning out of his road, either to the right or left; yet when he arrived in England, as his family were then in Ireland, he immediately proceeded to Herefordshire and collected as many of the king's enemies as he could prevail upon to join his standard and to espouse his quarrel.

## KING JOHN LANDS AT PEMBROKE.

“When the king heard this in the course of his voyage, being then upon the Irish sea, he determined to come on shore at Pembroke; here he was again requested by de Breos's nephew, William earl Ferrars, that he might be permitted to go to speak to his uncle to know his intentions. This was likewise granted, and one Robert de Burgate, a knight of the household, directed to accompany him, who returning, begged leave that William might once more be suffered to approach the royal presence, which was allowed him; he then came as far as the water of Pembroke, and offered by his messengers forty thousand marks to be restored into peace and favour, ‘yet we (says John) knew full well that it was not in *his* power, but *his wife's* who was in Ireland, and that, if he was in earnest, we would accompany and supply him with a safe conduct or passport for that kingdom, to enable him to *talk with his wife* and friends about the amount of the fine he was to pay, and the ratification of the terms to be agreed upon; and we further undertook that if we could not agree upon those terms, we would send him to the same spot in Wales on which he then stood, and in the same condition.’ These reasonable proposals were rejected by de Breos, who remained in the principality, doing all the mischief he could to the king and his subjects, burning a mill and setting fire to three cottages.

## HIS INTERVIEW WITH MAUD OF HAY.

“In the meantime Maud of Hay, hearing of the king's expedition to Ireland, fled to Scotland, where she was taken prisoner by Duncan de Caryc, whom the king calls his cousin and friend, and who immediately sent him information of this occurrence, which he received on the day the castle of Carrickfergus was surrendered to him. Maud's eldest son William, his wife and two sons, and her daughter (whose name was Maud) the wife of Roger Mortimer, were also made prisoners at the same time, but Hugh de Laci and Reginald de Breos her third son, made their escape. To conduct them into his presence, John sent two of his knights John de Courci and Godfrey de Cracombe, with a company of bowmen, and when they were brought before him ‘*this very Maud* (*ipsa* Matilda says John) began to talk about making us satisfaction, and offered us forty thousand marks for the safety and preservation of the lives and limbs of her husband and his adherents, and that his castles might be restored to him; to this we agreed, yet in three days she repented of her engagement, alleging that she was unable to perform them. Afterwards when we returned into England, we brought her and her family with us in our custody, and now she again offered us forty thousand marks upon the same conditions as formerly, and ten thousand marks as a fine for her departure from her first proposal; this we likewise consented to accept, but to convince her that she was to adhere more steadily to her undertakings in future, we told her, that as often as she receded from the present compact, she should pay an additional sum of ten thousand marks. To this she agreed, and the whole transaction was reduced into writing and confirmed and ratified by



her oath and seal, and the oaths and seals of her party, as well as of our earls and barons who were present at the treaty, and days were at the same time assigned for the payment thereof; for the punctual performance of which she and hers were to remain in custody, until the whole debt was paid by instalments.'

THE KING'S INDICTMENT AGAINST WILLIAM DE BREOSA.

"The king then proceeds to state, that after William de Breosa's breach of his engagements, when he entered Herefordshire and burnt and laid waste the country, he was proclaimed a traitor and an outlaw by the sheriff of Herefordshire, according to the law and custom of England; but that upon the faith of this compact with his wife, he (the king) wrote to that officer to postpone further proceedings against him till the monarch's return from Ireland: that upon his arrival in England, Maud and her family were prisoners at Bristol, where she petitioned that her husband might have leave to speak to her in private, that he obtained this permission, that he approved of the terms his wife had made, and that in order to enable him to raise the money promised to be paid, Geoffrey Fitzpeter the king's justice was sent to accompany him (a favour with which de Breosa would have readily dispensed, for upon the first instalment becoming due, he quitted the kingdom and left his Majesty's justice in the lurch). The rescript then concludes by saying, that upon being informed of this unexpected piece of intelligence, the king sent Geoffrey Fitzpeter, the king's brother the Earl of Salisbury, the Earl of Winchester and other noblemen to Maud, to know from her what was to be done in this dilemma, and what she and her husband proposed in the business, and that she answered explicitly, she would not pay one farthing, as she had no more money or money's worth in her possession than twenty four marks in silver, twenty four besants<sup>1</sup> and eleven ounces of gold; so that neither she or her husband or any person for them, ever paid the debt to the king, or any part of it.

DEATH OF MAUD WALBEE AND HER SON WILLIAM.

"This writing is attested by William Earl Ferrars, Henry Earl of Hereford, and several other noblemen, so that if this statement be true, of which (as has been before observed) there is little reason to doubt, King John was fully justified in his proceeding against William de Breos, independently of the *malapert*<sup>2</sup> speech of his wife *Mol Walbee*, which at the same time it is probable he neither forgot or forgave; and in revenge for this insult as well as her repeated breach of faith, he inhumanly inclosed her and her eldest son William in a tower at Windsor, or as some say Corfe castle, where they were starved to death, while her husband was compelled to take refuge in France, and to submit to the loss of the whole of his property and possessions. In this country he survived some time in the humiliating habit of a beggar, tormented by a wounded conscience and the miseries of poverty: and having in some measure expiated in this life, the crimes he had committed in his prosperous days, died at Gorboyl or Corboyl in Normandy, or rather in the Isle of France, on the 9th day of August in the year 1212 or 1213, from whence his body was conveyed to Paris and *honourably* interred in the abbey of St. Victor's there.

WILLIAM DE BREOS'S FIRST CHARTER TO BRECKNOCK PRIORY.

"It is not necessary to paint the character of this monster, his own actions have unequivocally portrayed it; but is it not extraordinary that such a man as Giraldus Cambrensis should from any motives have been induced to become his panegyrist, or to prostitute his pen in his defence? Yet so it is, for he tells us, that 'though as a man he sometimes erred, for he who sins not has more of the divine than of human nature in him, yet he always prefaced his discourse with the name of the Lord: in the name of God be this done, in God's name be that performed, if it please God, if it is the will of God, or by the grace of God it shall be so, and if he was on a journey, whenever he came into a church or saw a cross, he immediately betook himself to prayers, even

<sup>1</sup> Bisantia, Besants, or rather Byzants, from their having been coined at Byzantium during the time of the Christian emperors, were a gold coin of uncertain value. Besants are now only known in heraldry and are represented by little round yellow balls or surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> The words of Maud, as related by Matthew Paris, are preceded by a sarcasm, which none but a monk would have made: "Maud his wife (says he) snatching the words out of his mouth, answered with a *womanlike* flippancy, I'll not deliver my boys to your master king John, because he basely murdered his nephew Arthur, whom in honour he ought to have preserved and protected; her husband, (the author proceeds to say) repre-

hended her for her interference, and said, she talked like a foolish woman, that he was ready to obey the king in all his lawful commands, yet that he did not see the necessity of giving pledges for his fidelity." (Matthew Paris, Edn. of 1571. p. 303.) Speed says, Maud endeavoured to pacify the king; and to induce him to forgive her offence, she made a present to his queen of four hundred kine and one bull, all milk white with red ears. Bingley, in his *Animal Biography*, vol. 2. p. 80. describes wild cattle to be *invariably* white, the muzzle black and the whole inside of the ear, and one third part of the outside from the tip downwards red.



though he was engaged at the time in conversation with any person, whether rich or poor; and when he met children he always saluted them, hoping to be repaid by the prayers of innocents. His wife Maud (Giraldus also tells us) was not only chaste, but *prudent* and remarkable for her economy and domestic good qualities. But though the archdeacon was a man of learning and knowledge of the world, he was a high churchman; and the most meritorious service that could be rendered christianity or religion in those days was a liberal contribution towards the support of its ministers. Giraldus's respect for William de Breos may be more readily accounted for than commended, when we learn that he was a considerable benefactor to the priories of Brecknock and Abergavenny, as well as to the monks of Lira in Normandy. To the first he granted two charters which are on record; by the former he gives his body to the church of St. John the apostle and evangelist in Brecknock, to be conveyed thither from whatever place it might please God he should die, whether in England or Wales, *that being the church which beyond all others he revered, because upon St. John, after God and the holy Mary, he placed his greatest trust*: he then confirms the charters of his predecessors, and recommends the church to the care of all those who owe him faith or friendship, and conjures them, by the love of God, to promote its welfare with all things needful. He afterwards proceeds to grant to all persons belonging to the church of St. John, as well *burgesses*<sup>1</sup> as other, privileges and exemptions from all levies and contributions payable<sup>2</sup> to chief constables, and from all fines for common trespasses<sup>3</sup> and defaults, and gives to the monks the goods and chattels of all persons<sup>4</sup> apprehended in the act of stealing, or who shall be convicted of any other crime, at the same time reserving to himself and the officers of his court the right of determining and pronouncing all judgments affecting life or limb.

## HIS SECOND CHARTER TO THE SAME MONASTERY.

"By the second charter he confirms to the same monks a certain demesne which Ralph de Bascheville gave them within his barony, called the mill of *Trosalref* and its stream in Leveni: by reference to Baskerville's grant and his wife's confirmation, this will be found to be a mill called Trosdref Mill upon the river Llyfni or Lleveni. This confirmation seems to have been necessary at the time, as we find by a document in the Bodleian Library, that a dispute arose, either between Ralph Baskerville or his wife or widow the lady Nest, the daughter of Gryffyth, and the prior and monks of Brecon, concerning the profits of the mill of Trosdref upon *Livini* as it is called in Ralph's charter, which was compromised and the right of the prior and convent established. The site of this mill is not now known, but it appears to have been part of the possessions of Bernard Newmarch, and, after his decease, of Milo Fitzwalter, from whom it descended to his grand-daughter Bertha, who married Adam de la Port, who had issue by her, Sibil, the first wife of Sir Ralph Baskerville,<sup>5</sup> in whose right he became possessed of this property, as well as the manor of Eardisley in Herefordshire.

"The *honour*<sup>6</sup> of Brecknock with its dependencies, together with Abergavenny and the whole territory of Overwent, upon the attainder of the late baron de Breos, escheated to the crown; and shortly after, John gave Blánllyfni, Talgarth and the Wallascherie<sup>7</sup> to his favourite, but ill-

<sup>1</sup> This is the first time we hear of burgesses of Brecknock; few boroughs in this kingdom can boast of equal antiquity, or trace their incorporation to as early a period.

<sup>2</sup> In the Latin, "*liberi sint scyris et hundredis.*" This word *hundredus* was used not only for the hundred, or division now so called, but for the levies or contributions paid to the *Hundredarius* or chief constable, for the better support of his office; from which some persons and religious houses (as in the present case) were exempted by grant. So king Henry the Second to B. de S. Walleri, "*ut terræ suæ sint quietæ de scyris et hundredis.*" *Secta scyrarum aut hundredorum*, signified suit of court or attendance on the county or hundred court. The tenants of abbies, monasteries, and religious bodies, were not in general liable to this suit of court, if the lands were held in Frank-Almoigne. (*Kennet.*)

<sup>3</sup> In the Latin "*de placitis et omnibus querelis;*" *quietos esse de querelis*, sometimes meant to be exempt from the customary fees, payable to the king or lord of a court for leave to prosecute a plaint, but more frequently implied an exemption from fines for common trespasses and defaults, as in the grant to Barham de S. Valleri, "*ut terræ suæ sint quietæ de omnibus placitis et querelis, excepto Mordredo et Latrocinio.*" *Quatuor Hydas apud Cesterton liberas esse et quietas omnibus placitis et querelis excepto mordredo et latrocinio.*" (*Kennet.*)

<sup>4</sup> There is clearly an omission here, and de Breos must have meant to have given the monks the goods of felons, taken and

convicted *within their liberties or jurisdiction*. A right of the same kind, with some variation, will hereafter be found with the burgesses of Brecknock as late as the reign of Henry the Eighth.

<sup>5</sup> The Welsh podigrees take no notice of this lady, though it is clear she was wife to Ralph Baskerville as appears by the grant above referred to.

<sup>6</sup> In ancient times a baronial estate was distinguished by the different names of *Baronia*, *Honor*, *Terra*; *Fædum*, and sometimes, though seldom, *Tenementum*. The baronial seigniorie of an earl or other great men was commonly called an honour, whether vested in the individual by forfeiture or otherwise in the crown. Thus the barony of Adam de la Port, the Terra of Earl Simon; of the honour of Huntingdon and Gant; the *Fædum* of Wahull, the *tenementum* of several barons, and the lordship of Brecknock is indiscriminately called *Fædum* and *Honor*; de *scutagio Pictaviæ*, *Fædum Willielmi de Braiosa*. (*Madox's Baron. Anglic.* p. 5 and 53.)

<sup>7</sup> The lordship of Talgarth, like many others under the lords Marchers, was divided into English and Welsh, so called from two separate courts held for the government of the people of different nations and languages: that for the English was styled *Englishcheria*, the other for the Welshmen *Wallecheria*, unde *Wallashirie*, the *Welshery* or *Welsh Talgarth*. Talgarth first mentioned above, means that part of the lordship where the English laws prevailed



advising counsellor Fitzherbert, who was intitled, next to the de Breos family, to the possessions of Milo Fitzwalter in Breconshire, in right of his mother Lucia one of the daughters of that earl.

GILES DE BREOS MADE BISHOP OF HEREFORD.

"The eldest surviving son of William de Breos was Giles bishop of Hereford, promoted to that see in the second year of the reign of John (A.D. 1200). This prelate inherited all the violence and party spirit which marked the character of his detestable father, and upon all occasions stood forward in opposition to the crown; he was a zealous defender of the pontifical authority, and when the nation was put under an interdict, for what the pope was pleased to term the king's contumacy in refusing to acknowledge Stephen Langton as primate of Canterbury, upon his Holiness's consecration of him to that dignity, he was obliged to quit the kingdom to avoid the resentment of his incensed sovereign: his revenues were confiscated and his person outlawed. He continued abroad till the year 1213, when upon his return into England he was restored to all his spiritual titles and possessions; but his lay inheritance was still detained from him. To recover this, he joined in a confederacy with Llewelyn prince of North Wales and some English revolted barons, and sent his brother Reginald to demand restitution of his castles in Wales and the marches from those who held them under the crown. Such was the weakness of John's authority over the country at this time, that the castles of Abergavenny, Pencelli, and Grosmont were instantly surrendered to Reginald without opposition, or (as far as can be now learned) the least shew or pretence of resistance: and when the bishop entered Wales in person, he obtained possession of Brecknock, Hay, and Builth, where he was readily acknowledged as the rightful lord, and at the same time he expelled Fitzherbert and his dependants from the possession of Blânlyfni.

"Thus far he had succeeded, when by the express injunctions of the pope (who flattered by the mean concessions of the king, now fulminated a bull of excommunication against Llewelyn and his adherents) he thought himself compelled to return to his allegiance, and having made a separate peace with the English monarch, his estate was by the royal mandate restored and confirmed to him. Stowe writes, that in the 15th King John, 'Gilo de Brawse the sonne of William de Brawse received all his father's inheritance into his custodie, together with his nephew, till the child came of lawful age:' this nephew was John, nicknamed Tadodie, son of his eldest brother William, generally called Gwilym Gam or squinting Will, whose melancholy fate has been recounted. This child had been privately nursed by a Flemish woman in Gower, and to him afterwards descended that lordship, together with the family estates of Sussex, and certain lands in Monmouthshire, part of which he gave to the Abbey of Taley in Caermarthenshire as appears by Dugdale; though the names by which they are described are so miserably spelt and disfigured that we can learn little more than that they were situate somewhere near Abergavenny. This branch of the family instead of verri, ermine and gules, three bars azure, borne by the lords of Brecknock, assumed for arms, azure, a lion rampant, between ten crosses crosslets, *Or*.

THE CHARACTER OF THE BISHOP.

"It is uncertain whether William de Breos the elder was not alive at the very time the bishop obtained possession of his estates; yet as these were forfeited to the Crown, no blame attaches to the latter either for claiming or accepting them, further than that it should seem, he ought to have accounted for the profits to his nephew, if he knew he was alive. But Giles was neither capable of enjoying, nor had he merit to deserve such a vast accession of fortune; and though he cannot be charged with the atrocities that have perpetuated his father's infamy, it is doubtful whether the historian could have said thus much in his favour or allowed him even *negative* commendation, if providence had allotted him an equal length of days with his predecessor. He was evidently a fickle, proud, and imperious baron, at the same time that he appears to have been an obedient son of the church; he gave certain lands in Colwall (perhaps Craswall) to the cathedral church of Hereford, but directed that the rents thereof should be applied to the celebration of his anniversary for ever, and died at Gloucester November 17, 1215, leaving his immense possessions to his brother Reginald. On the north side of the choir of the cathedral at Hereford is the figure of a bishop pontifically habited, his right hand giving the benediction, in his left a crosier and an embattled tower of two stories, on the wall over him is painted this inscription: 'Ds. EGIDIUS DE BRUSE EPUS HEREF, OBT. A.D. 1215.'

"From the tower in his hand, Bishop Godwyn conjectures that he built the West tower of that edifice, which fell to the ground in 1786, about five hundred and eighty years after its erection.

FAMILY OF CRADOC AP GWYLYM.

"It has been seen how successfully the power of John (generally unfortunate) was hitherto exerted against the family of de Breos; this can only be accounted for by circumstances and facts not generally



known to the public. Upon the murder of Trahaern Vychan by William de Breos, many of the family of the Welsh chieftain quitted the country and fled to England: those however who remained in Wales cherished and preserved an hereditary resentment against the assassin and his descendants. Trahaern left several brothers: one of them Cadivor ap Gwrgan ap Bleddin ap Maenarch had issue Meuric, whose son was Gwylym of Glyntawe in Brecknockshire, the father of Cradoc, generally called after the Welsh manner Cradoc ap Gwylym. This Cradoc had very considerably possessions in the very centre of de Breos's property in this country; the quarrel therefore between John and the lord of Brecknock fixed him firmly in the interest of the English monarch, to whom he adhered in all his wars with his barons, and who gave him for arms, as a reward for his fidelity, azure, a buck tripping, argent, unguled and attired, and bearing between his horns an imperial crown, *Or*, which are borne by most of his descendants at this day. To this eternal enemy, this troublesome neighbour, aided as he was by all the old inhabitants of Brecknockshire and the neighbouring counties, who combined to support the cause and to avenge the murder of one of the descendants of their ancient reguli, may in a great measure be attributed the ruin of de Breos and the good fortune of John. The successors of this Cradoc sunk into country gentlemen, and though they may have occasionally distinguished themselves for their valour or their talents, yet after him they never shone as chieftains or appeared as commanders of armies. Cradoc either died in the latter end of the reign of John, or else Reginald, who succeeded the bishop of Hereford in his wealth and territories, found means to be reconciled to him, or perhaps the additional weight which Reginald de Breos derived from his connexion with Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, prince of North Wales, whose daughter Gwladis he married, or all these causes, contributed to his defence against the English monarch, and enabled him to resist his power with greater effect than his father; for during his government he will be seen combating the forces and resisting the attacks of John and his successor, with various success it is true, yet ultimately preserving his property, though frequently compelled to feel the weight, and to submit to the superior numbers of his adversary.

## BURNING OF HAY AND RADNOR CASTLES.

“Soon after he had been permitted to pay his homage, and had sworn fealty, Reginald (in A.D. 1215) engaged in a confederacy with Llewelyn and the English barons in resisting the power of his sovereign; who in the last year of his life gratified his revenge against his revolted subject, by marching into Wales and burning his castles of Hay<sup>1</sup> and Radnor. Upon the accession of Henry the Third, overtures were made to him to detach him from the interest of Llewelyn and his adherents; and among other articles it was proposed, that as a reward for his obedience, his English estates should be restored to him, to be held on the same terms as his brother Giles. He was caught by the bait, and thus allured, he forgot his father in law; and regardless of the solemn engagements he had made with him, returned to England, when the castles and honours of Totness, Barnstaple, and other escheated property, were delivered up to him by the commands of the English monarch.

## PRINCE LLEWELYN LAYS SIEGE TO BRECKNOCK.

“Llewelyn justly incensed at such a breach of faith, laid siege to the town of Brecknock (A.D. 1217), which in the first transports of his rage he determined to demolish, but afterwards, upon the humble petition of the burgesses, and the earnest intercession of his nephew Rhys, he was prevailed upon to spare it, and having taken five hostages for their future good behaviour, and one hundred marks as a compensation to his troops for their march, he crossed the mountains towards Gower. In this journey he was so greatly incommoded by the badness of the roads and the natural difficulties of the country, that several of his carriages were injured, and some of them lost in bogs and morasses. Reginald, now ashamed of his conduct and alarmed for the safety of his Welsh possessions, came to Llanguik (a parish in Glamorganshire, adjoining Brecknockshire, called by Powel, Llangruc), where his father in law was then encamped, and tendered him his submission, promising never again to offend him. Llewelyn with the generosity of a Briton, not only instantly forgave his former perfidy, but received him with all the mildness of paternal affection, and in the plenitude of confidence, put him into possession of the strong fortress of Caerphili in the highlands of Glamorganshire; he then proceeded with his troops to Dyved, and concluded the campaign with equal honour to himself and advantage to his country. The reconciliation between Reginald and Llewelyn was highly resented by the court of London, and in consequence of it, the lordships of Blânllŷfni

<sup>1</sup> Buck under his view of Hay castle in Brecknockshire (from what authority we know not) says that Louis the dauphin of France burnt this fortress in the reign of John, but this appears to be an error.



and Talgarth, which since his brother's death, had been enjoyed by Reginald, were, by a royal mandate, retransferred to Peter Fitzherbert to whom they had been given upon the attainder of William de Breos.

#### BURIAL PLACE OF REGINALD DE BREOS.

"Nothing further is known of the exploits of this baron, but we are informed that he died in 1228, and that he was buried in the priory church at Brecknock. Churchyarde<sup>1</sup> gives us the following account of his monument, or what he supposed to be such,

Cross legg'd by him as was the auncient trade  
Debreos lyes in picture as I troe  
Of most hard wood, which wood as divers say  
No worme can eat, nor tyme can wear away;  
A couching hound as harrolds<sup>2</sup> thought full meete,  
In wood likewise lyes beneath his feete.

"Poor Churchyarde! Wert thou permitted once more to revisit 'the glimpses of the moon,' thou would'st find that this most hard wood is so completely eaten by the worm, or worn away by time, that 'like the baseless fabric of a vision,' not a wreck remains, nor does even the finger of tradition point to the spot whereon this monument stood.

"In all probability Reginald employed the years that followed his reconciliation with Llewelyn in a crusade or pilgrimage to Jerusalem; for Dugdale says, one of his charters to the monks of Brecknock was granted after his return from the holy land, which also accounts for the *auncient trade* of placing his legs across on his monument. By his first charter he granted to the monks just mentioned a Grist mill at Llanfaes with all the tools and profits belonging to it, and he gave them the further liberty (if they should think it expedient) to remove it to any other situation on the stream; he also granted them five shillings out of the revenues of the town of Brecknock, to purchase and provide a lamp<sup>3</sup> for the honourable celebration of the mass of the Virgin Mary daily, the same to be paid annually upon the festival of St. John the Baptist.

"By the second charter he merely confirms the grants of his ancestors: to both these charters Giraldus Cambrensis occurs as a witness.

"Gwladis the widow of Reginald de Breos afterwards married Ralph Mortimer lord of Melenydd in Radnorshire, who about the year 1242 built the castles of Knucklas and Cefnlllys in that county; with her, Llewelyn gave the neighbouring territories of Cerri and Cedewyn as a marriage portion. Reginald by a former wife, Græcia or Grisseld daughter of William Bruere lord of Bridgwater, had issue, a daughter and two sons, named Mary, William and John. William, the eldest son, succeeded his father as lord of Brecknock, and as soon as he came into possession of his estate, discovered an attachment to the English interest, to which he steadily adhered during the whole of his life; he was little pleased with the second marriage of his father's widow, and contested her right to the jointure assigned her by her husband, but it does not appear that he was successful in his opposition.

#### HENRY ATTEMPTS THE CONQUEST OF WALES.

"War still raged in the marches. The king of England heading his own troops made vigorous efforts to conquer the principality, while on the other hand Llewelyn strained every nerve to maintain his independence. The English monarch, soon after his irruption into the borders, led his army into Cerri, in Montgomeryshire, to a place there, called by Matthew Paris, Cridia, and by Sir William Dugdale, Cridie, a corruption (as it should seem) of Creigiau or Creigau, the Rocks: after having in his march thither compelled the Welsh to raise the siege of Montgomery, then held by Hubert de Burgh. At Cerri much time was spent in cutting a wood of vast extent, which had frequently protected the Welsh from the incursions of the English, and in the centre of which was a castellated mansion, or as others say, a religious house, serving as a place of security to the inhabitants in case of a sudden irruption, or unexpected attack from an enemy. This building was reduced to ashes, and as its site was thought almost inaccessible, Henry by the advice, and with the assistance of de Burgh, laid the foundation of a castle on the spot where it stood; but Llewelyn, though hitherto

<sup>1</sup> Worthinesse of Wales, p. 72.

<sup>2</sup> Heralds.

<sup>3</sup> The Latin word *Luminare* in the original signifies a lamp, a light or candle burning at the altar of any church or chapel, for the maintenance of which rent charges were frequently granted to churches and religious houses. It was sometimes stipulated that this luminary should burn all night and in the day at canonical hours during the time of divine service. A luminary at the great altar of the church was sometimes maintained by the rector of the church, and in vicarages, the expence

was charged on the appropriations. In Normandy it was ordained that once in each year the priest and chaplains should come with their people in full procession to their mother church, and there, every house offered on the altar a wax taper to enlighten the church. Bishop Godwin passed a constitution in the diocese of Lincoln, against the abuse of rents given for this purpose. (Kennet's *Parochial Antiquities*.) This grant of de Breos explains (as we conceive) the origin of Lady's rent or rather our Lady's rent once paid to the corporation of Brecon.





BRYNLLYS CASTLE IN 1805

*(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).*







repulsed, was very far from being subdued, nor was it his disposition to remain idle, while the enemy was incroaching upon his interior. With an eagle's eye, he watched the movements, and intercepted the convoys of the king of England, and sometimes cut in pieces his foraging parties: in one of these excursions it was the fate of William de Breos to be made prisoner by the Welsh, and though the whole territory of Builth was offered for his ransom, it was refused.

## THE ALLEGED INFIDELITY OF LLEWELYN'S WIFE JOAN.

"Henry, awakened by these losses, and having some reason to suspect treachery among his officers (who as it is said corresponded with the enemy, and made them acquainted with his plans), at length thought proper to abandon the enterprise, and to leave the intended fortress, sarcastically called Hubert's Folly, unfinished. After three months fruitless waste of time and labour, and the loss of many men, during which period he had experienced nothing but mortification, he consented to a peace with Llewelyn, upon the disgraceful terms of levelling with the ground all the works he had constructed and nearly completed at an immense expence. The Welsh prince on his part engaging to pay him three thousand marks, as a compensation for the materials left on the spot, and consenting that in future the lord of Cerri should hold his territory as a fief of the crown of England. Henry was mean enough to make no stipulation in favour of his faithful servant de Breos, but suffered him to remain a prisoner with Llewelyn, who treated him as honourably and hospitably, as if he had been his invited guest. During this confinement he is said to have become enamoured of Joan the wife of Llewelyn, a natural daughter of John king of England, and to have been admitted to improper familiarities with her: this intrigue, it is added, remained a secret to Llewelyn until after the liberation of William, which was affected, as the Welsh chronicle says, by the surrender of the castle of Builth, and the payment of a large sum of money to Llewelyn, who being then informed of the infidelity of his wife, and determined to be revenged upon her gallant, invited him to a feast at his court. Upon his acceptance of this invitation, Llewelyn having him in his power, first reproached the profligate with his crime, and then commanded him to be ignominiously dragged out of his presence, and hanged (*circa*, 1230) without further trial or ceremony, upon a tree growing upon a neighbouring hill; he was afterwards, as tradition says, buried in a field called from him, Cae Gwilym ddu, or black William's field (the name by which this William de Breos was known among the Welsh); this inclosure is in the parish of Llandegai, in Caernarvonshire. Mr. Pennant relates that at the entrance into a deep glen, near Aber in Caernarvonshire, there is a very large artificial mount, flat at the top and near sixty feet in diameter, widening towards the base, on which was once a castle belonging to Llewelyn; some foundations (he says) are yet to be discovered near the summit, and in digging there, the vestiges of buildings may be found. Here, it is said, the intrigue was detected, and the tradition of the country is, that a bard of the palace, accidentally meeting with the princess, who was ignorant of the fate of her paramour, thus impudently accosted her,

Diceyn, Doccyn, wraig Llewelyn!  
Beth a roed' am gweled Gwilym?

Hark'e dame! say what wilt thou  
Give to see thy Gwilym now?

To which this *Englishwoman* is supposed to have been such a fool as to have answered flip-  
pantly and in tolerable *Welsh* rhyme,

Cymru Lloegr a Llewelyn  
A rhown y gyd am gweled Gwilym.

Wales, England, and Llewelyn too  
I'd give my William's face to view.

Upon receiving this answer, the bard, it is added, shewed her the body of her favourite suspended to the branch of a tree.

## CHARGES AGAINST HUGH DE BURGH.

"Such is the story as related by many historians and confirmed in some degree by tradition, but notwithstanding this, there are many reasons which render it liable to suspicion, and make its veracity extremely doubtful: in the first place Matthew Paris, who is one of the earliest authors that assigns the jealousy of Llewelyn as the cause of de Breos's death, gives it as a report only,—'ut dicebatur' are his words—and he afterwards informs us, that among the charges against Hubert de Burgh were, stealing a precious stone from the king of England's treasury, which had the virtue of rendering the wearer of it invulnerable in battle, sending it to Llewelyn the king's enemy, and treacherously writing letters to the same Llewelyn, by which means the prince of Wales was induced to hang William de Breos as a common thief. In the second place, she was (to use a common phrase) old enough to be de Breos's mother; she was married to Llewelyn in 1201 or the beginning of 1202, supposing her therefore to be only twenty years of age at that period, she must have been nearly fifty when William's captivity commenced: it must also be observed, that though the heroes of those days were not very delicate in their amours, it is extremely improbable that de Breos should have intrigued with the wife of his father's father in law, and that David ap Llewelyn, the son of



the adulteress should have afterwards married Isabel, the daughter of his mother's seducer. It seems also extraordinary that a woman, accused tauntingly of a crime of this nature, should avow it, and avow it without hesitation, to one, who from the familiarity of his address, evidently meant to insult her, and that in a language too, in which it cannot be supposed she was an adept, unless her facility of acquiring the knowledge of it, far exceeded that of her countrywomen of later days, and lastly we are told, that her husband Llewelyn, in honour of her memory, soon after her death, in the year 1236, erected the Franciscan monastery of Llanfaes, in Anglesea, to enshrine her tomb; so that upon the whole it may fairly be concluded that if any thing was said about this familiarity between William de Breos and the Welsh princess, it was only meant to furnish a pretence for his death, which the tortuous policy of the times suggested, and to which, it is by no means improbable, Hubert de Burgh, from a personal quarrel, or to get rid of a troublesome neighbour, by falsehood or artifice contributed.

#### LLEWELYN INVADES BRECONSHIRE IN 1233.

"The imputation thrown upon the character of his sister, as well as the execution of so powerful a baron as William de Breos, exasperated the king of England, and for a moment called forth the exertions of this weak and fickle monarch: with all the pride therefore of an insulted sovereign, though without the valour or the talents to obtain his object, Henry sent to Llewelyn a peremptory summons to appear before him at Shrewsbury to answer for his unwarrantable conduct. Instead of obeying this mandate, the prince of North Wales entered the marches with an army, and extending his vengeance to the family and even to the tenants of the deceased, he laid waste the then defenceless territories of de Breos. Having taken the castle of Montgomery, still in the possession of de Burgh, who was left to defend the marches of Wales, he proceeded to make himself master of Brecknock and Rhaiadrgwy, and, after considerable loss, reduced the church and castle of Caerleon to ashes. The same fate attended the fortress of Neath and Cydweli; the barbarities which accompanied his progress are highly disgraceful to his character, and too disgusting to be related. About two years afterwards (A.D. 1233) he made a second inroad into Breconshire, destroying and laying waste the whole of that country. At length, however, he was foiled in his attack upon the castle of Brecknock, which was either more ably defended or more strongly fortified than in his former expedition; for after a month's fruitless efforts he raised the siege, yet in order to leave a memento of his visit, he *humanely* set fire to the town and returned homewards with his booty.

#### WILLIAM DE BREOS'S ISSUE.

"The issue of William de Breos by his wife Eve, daughter of William Marshall earl of Pembroke, were five daughters. Isabel the eldest married David the son of Llewelyn; Elinor the second married Humphrey de Bohun earl of Essex, who in her right, as will be seen, succeeded to the lordship of Brecknock; Maud married Roger Mortimer earl of Wigmore and lord of Melenydd, son of Ralph lord of Wigmore by Gwladis ddu, and after his death Brian de Brampton; Eve the fourth daughter married William de Cantelupe, and brought him the lordship of Abergavenny, which by the marriage of his daughter Joan, descended to the family of Hastings, from whom it came to the Beauchamps earls of Warwick and afterwards to Sir Edward Neville the ancestors of the present earls of Abergavenny<sup>1</sup>; and Ella the fifth daughter married according to some MSS. a John Mowbray.

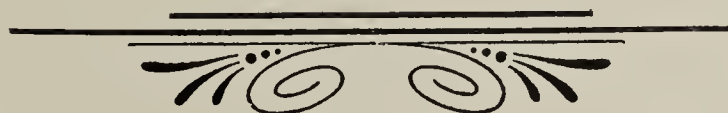
#### MORE BENEFACTIONS TO THE PRIORY.

"It must be recollected that upon the reconciliation of Reginald de Breos with Llewelyn, the lordships of Blanallyn and Talgarth, including the honour and castle of Dinas, were seized upon by the crown, and given to Peter Fitzherbert, and though he was dispossessed of them by Reginald, he afterwards acquired a legal title to these possessions by marrying Isabel, the daughter of the last William de Breos, who survived her first husband, David the son of Llewelyn prince of North Wales. Fitzherbert died in 1235, leaving the bulk of his fortune, among which was his Breconshire property, to his eldest son by a former wife, Herbert Fitzpeter. The latter baron appears among the list of benefactors to the monks of Brecon: he granted them in full, pure, and perpetual alms, the liberty of fishing in the lake of Llynssavaddan, three days in the week and every day in Lent, with *one boat*. This was no new privilege, for they enjoyed this right in a far more ample manner under the first charter of Roger, earl of Hereford, indeed the present limitation to the use of *one boat*, seems as if it was the intention of the grantor to narrow, rather than enlarge the benefits of the fishery. He granted them also the lands of Pentenavel (Penllanafel) and all the lands of St. Paulinus (Llangorse),

<sup>1</sup> This lordship, as well as those of Kington, Radnor, Knighton, Earlston, Totness and St. Clare were assigned to Eva, the widow of William de Breos, as her dower, and were held by her till her death, in 1246.



which used to pay to the said monks the yearly sum of one mark. By way of commutation, for the tythes of his castle of Blanllyfni, he gave them five marks yearly, subjecting his bailiff to the penalty of excommunication if he neglected or delayed payment; he also granted them a certain eneroachment of land near Trewalkin, cleared and made profitable by the said monks, but for which they had incurred the displeasure of his father. The remainder of the charter contains merely a confirmation of grants by other persons of lands or hereditaments within his lordship. He died without issue in the thirty-second of Henry the Third, leaving his brother Reginald Fitzpeter his heir, who upon doing homage, had livery of his several estates in England and Wales, excepting the manors of Blanllyfni and Dinas, which the king seized and gave to Walerand de Teys.





## CHAPTER VI.

From the Acquisition of the lordship by the Bohun Family, to the failure of that Race in the male line; during the accession by the Crown of England, and until the Possession of the lordship by the Stafford Family.

“**H**UMPHREY DE BOHUN, who married one of the daughters of William de Breos, as has just been related, and who succeeded to the Welsh estates (A.D. 1246) upon the death of his widow Eve, was the sixth of that name after the Conquest. This family was of high respect in Normandy, and as some say, related to our first William, whom they accompanied into England. Humphrey the third, by his marriage with Margaret daughter of Miles de Gloucester or Milo Fitzwalter, became in her right on failure of the male issue or rather on the decease of his brother in law without issue (as has been already seen), earl of Hereford and lord high constable of England, an office of great honour and authority which descended through several generations of this family by the tenure of the manors of Haresfield, Newenham and Whittenhurst in Gloucestershire by grand Sergeanty. Camden says that Caldecott Castle in Monmouthshire was also held by them in virtue of that office, but this Coxe<sup>1</sup> denies, and says it was part of the property of the Bohun family. Humphrey Bohun, who married Eleanor or Elinor de Breos, was the son of Humphrey, earl of Hereford, surnamed the Good. The father and son differed widely in their politics; in fact the father obtained this honourable distinction not only for the many virtues which marked his private character, but for his loyalty to the crown, while the son (with what justice we do not take upon us to say) was stigmatised with the epithet of rebel, for his adherence to the barons.

“It is not our intention, not indeed is it consistent with our plan to enter into a detail of the convulsions which agitated the English nation during the long and sanguinary reign of Henry the Third: it will be sufficient here to observe that the All-wise-Being, ‘whose ways are past our finding out,’ from great and apparent evils and calamities, produced much real good, and laid the foundation of future happiness and rational freedom to the inhabitants of this highly favoured island. To the turbulence and ambition of some of the barons, and the patriotism of others, leagued as they were together, by motives so extremely different and by views so completely opposite, we owe the preservation of Magna Charta, a grant which secured to the subject in those days many very valuable privileges, but which has since from time to time so far been exceeded in consequence of that love of freedom implanted by these early struggles in the breasts of Englishmen, by the attention of the legislature and sometimes by the liberality of the crown, that though the name of this document sounds melodiously in the ears of those who are ignorant even of its contents, the advantages we now derive from it are comparatively small.

### WARS CONTINUED BETWEEN ENGLISH AND WELSH.

“As the father of Humphrey was upon good terms with his sovereign during the whole or greatest part of his life, there is no reason to attribute the resistance of the son to improper motives: so that, unless Humphrey received some affront, or his tenants in Brecknockshire or elsewhere some injuries from the favourite D’Espencers, whose power in Glamorganshire was very great, it may fairly be presumed that the weak and wicked councils of Henry may have alienated him from his cause, and compelled him to support the violated rights of his fellow subjects, as well as to protect his own from the grip of a worthless monarch, and his insatiable minions. The first public notice we hear of this baron is in the twenty-eighth of Henry the Third, when in conjunction with the Earl of Clare and other English noblemen, he was employed to quell the insurrection of David the son of Llewelyn, his brother in law; a fierce engagement took place between them, in which it will hardly be lamented that the English were defeated, when it is known that de Bohun was himself

<sup>1</sup> Coxe’s *Tour Through Monmouthshire* (second edition, 1904, Davies and Co., Brecon).



the aggressor, by unjustly detaining from the British prince a third part of his wife's portion settled upon him by her father. In the following year he was employed with William de Cantelupe in scouring the Welsh marches from Brecknock to Shrewsbury. Disputes ran now very high between the two nations, and wars continued with little intermission during the reigns of David and his nephew Llewelyn ap Griffith; the latter having dispossessed Roger Mortimer of the castle of Builth and the lordship of Melenydd, at length consented to a truce in consideration of their near relationship and permitted him to depart in peace. Llewelyn then passed on to Brecknock on the invitation, as it is said, of the inhabitants, received their voluntary submission and returned home into North Wales.

## PEACE CONCLUDED BETWEEN HENRY AND LLEWELYN.

"In the insurrection of the Earl of Leicester, Llewelyn and de Bohun acted in one common cause as partizans of Montfort, and committed dreadful ravages in the marches upon the lands of such as adhered to the royal standard. Blanalstyfi and Dinas, which upon the death of Peter Fitzherbert had been conferred on Walerand de Teys, now fell into the hands of Peter de Montfort. This Walerand in right of his wife, a daughter and heiress of Hugh de Kilpec in Herefordshire, held the bailiwick of Hay, of the town of Hereford, and the wood of Coedmore (or Coed mawr) for which, in the forty-first of Henry the Third, he paid a fine of three marks of gold; he also held a moiety of the demesne lands of Whatley, in the county of Somerset, granted him by the crown when he was governor of Bristol castle: these with all other his lands in Wiltshire and Dorsetshire and the Forestership of Hay, Hereford, he afterwards made over to his nephew Alan Plugenet or Pogonet, constable of Dryslwyn castle in Caermarthenshire in 1287, with a reservation of an annuity of one hundred and twenty pounds to himself for life. In 1267, upon a peace being concluded between Henry and Llewelyn, the latter was allowed to retain Brecknock and Gwerthrynion, and the claims of the Bohun family seem at this time to have been overlooked by the King of England, though the old Earl of Hereford, his fast friend and adherent was still living.

## FIRST CHARTER TO BURGESSES OF BRECON.

"To Humphrey de Bohun the sixth of that name, the Burgesses of Brecknock are indebted for their first charter of liberties and immunities now on record, though it is not improbable there may have been prior grants, which have been either lost or destroyed. He left only one son, a minor at the time of his death, the wardship of whom was committed by the crown to Gilbert Earl of Gloucester, for though the father had offended, respect for his grandfather preserved the property from confiscation, at the same time that little attention was paid to prevent its dismemberment whenever policy dictated a sacrifice of part of it to a troublesome enemy, but upon the arrival of our young lord at the age of manhood, the same motives induced this English monarch to restore, or at least to permit him to recover his dominion of Brecknock. 'A.D. 1271 (says Leland) young Humphrey *fastnid*, i.e. entryed on his land of Brecknock after the feast of St. Mark.' The explanation was perfectly superfluous and unnecessary, *fastening* is full as easily comprehended as entering upon land, and is more descriptive of the manner in which the Norman lords *seized* or became seized of their Welsh estates as well as of the uses to which they were applied, when they had them under their talons.

"Upon the death of Humphrey the Good, who, according to York in his *Union of Honour*, was buried at Llanton, near Gloucester (A.D. 1275), Humphrey his grandson was admitted to the earldom of Hereford and Essex, and the constableness of England, which last office his grandfather had resigned to him some time previous to his death, and upon doing homage he had livery of these honours. In the tenth of Edward the First, particular circumstances requiring his personal residence in Brecknock, he was allowed to depute his uncle John de Bohun to attend his sovereign as constable of England.

## WAR BETWEEN EDWARD I. AND LLEWELYN.

"Though neither the Welsh or English historians have recorded the inducements which led Humphrey de Bohun into Wales at this period, it is not difficult to account for the necessity of his appearance in Brecknockshire, when we recollect the posture of affairs there in the year 1281. A war had just commenced between Edward the First and Llewelyn, which the humanity of Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury endeavoured to prevent; he even undertook a journey into Wales for that purpose, heard with patience and apparently without prejudice the complaints of Llewelyn, dictated in language which would not disgrace the orators of any age or country, almost admitted the truth



of his assertions and the force of his arguments, seemed to feel for the injuries of the prince and principality, and returned to England in expectation that they would be redressed, but the die was now thrown and the resolution of Edward irrevocably fixed.

"A wise and sound policy productive at the time, it is true, of calamities that may be deplored, and outrages which must be condemned, yet ultimately tending to promote the peace and happiness of both countries, suggested to this enterprising monarch the necessity of uniting Wales with England, and the hatred of a rival in arms, as well as in talents, though inferior in force, confirmed him in his determination. Llewelyn ap Griffith had frequently and indeed recently foiled him in his attempts to subjugate the rough natives of the barren mountains, and had formerly sent him bootless back to the fat pastures of England, if not with disgrace, at least with mortification and disappointment; but that persevering potentate, skilled as he was in every branch of military tactics then known in Europe or in Asia, returned to the charge, and deaf to the representations of the ill-fated Llewelyn, sent the primate back with proposals so humiliating, that they were, as he of course concluded they would be, rejected with indignation. One of these proposals was, that the Prince of Wales should desert his subjects and submit to receive a pension of one thousand pounds a year in England. Llewelyn answered with great spirit, that if he were base enough to accept of it, such was the honest pride of his people, that they would not suffer him to enjoy it, or permit him to descend so far below his rank. Here the archbishop, whose conduct hitherto was so amiable, lost at once the high character he had acquired. Intimidated by the power or compelled by what perhaps he thought his duty to his sovereign, he not only condescended to convey terms which he knew to be unreasonable and only calculated to wound the feelings of an injured prince, but he absolutely, when they were not approved of, thought it necessary to employ the censures of the church and to send Llewelyn and all his adherents *to the Devil*, for what he called their invincible obstinacy.

#### EDWARD MARCHES INTO CARDIGANSHIRE.

"Both sides now prepared for war. The first efforts of the Welsh prince were successful. A considerable body of the English having crossed the strait or narrow channel between Anglesea and Caernarvonshire were cut to pieces, and Llewelyn overran Caerdiganshire and a great part of Caermarthenshire; but the fortitude, the perseverance, the talents and the forces of Edward, where he commanded in person, were irresistible: 'his banners were fann'd by the crimson wing of conquest wherever they waved.' A retreat therefore to the almost inaccessible heights and fastnesses of Snowdon was the only expedient left to the Britons for avoiding present death or future slavery. This was adopted, and Llewelyn might have remained sometime secure from attack, unless his supply of provisions was intercepted; of this disaster he seems to have been apprehensive, and in order therefore if possible to prevent it and to distract the attention of Edward, who was at Conway, he marched with a small body of men to Montgomery, and from thence into Radnorshire, where, as well as in Brecknockshire, he had a considerable number of friends, for he was the idol of his countrymen, or as an old chronicle describes him, 'he was the captayne, the prayse, the law and the light of nations.' The correspondence he held in this part of the country, was by some means or other made known to the English court, and it was to discover his intrigues and to counteract his designs, as well as to *fasten* upon his lordship of Brecknock, that Humphrey de Bohun was now sent down into this country; unfortunately for the Prince of Wales he was too successful in both the objects of his mission. Llewelyn's friends were either intimidated or persuaded to desert him, his enemies were encouraged and a considerable force raised to oppose him.

#### LLEWELYN SEEKS ASSISTANCE AT ABEREDWY.

"Since the death of the last William de Breos, his widow and son in law possessed little more than a nominal dominion over this country: the descendants of the Norman knights preserved an attachment to the family of their seignior or lord paramount, but we have just seen the Welsh inhabitants of the town of Brecknock itself, the seat of his government, lately submit voluntarily to their favourite hero, and native chief; while Humphrey de Bohun, the father of the present Humphrey, involved as he was during the whole course of his life in continual troubles and perpetual skirmishes and warfare, had neither power or leisure to enforce the obedience of his tenants in the principality. But the case was now widely different; aided by the name and authority of the king of England, the arms or the arguments of Humphrey, the son, prevailed with his dependents, and made even an appearance or attempt at resistance folly. This complete change in the government and politics of the country, affected with much secrecy, as well as expedition, was perhaps not perfectly known to Llewelyn. Led by the promises and flattered with the hopes of assistance held out to him by some men of power in the hundred of Builth and the neighbourhood,



he ventured to march with his little army to Aberedwy in Radnorshire, three miles below Builth, on the banks of the river Wye, where it is said he expected to have held a conference with some of his friends; here, however, he found himself fatally disappointed, for instead of allies and partizans, whom he was encouraged to look for, he perceived he was almost surrounded in the toils and trammels of his adversary. A superior force from Herefordshire having had notice of his route, from some of the inhabitants of this country, approached under the command of Edmund Mortimer and John Giffard. Llewelyn finding from their numbers that resistance would be vain, fled with his men to Builth, and in order to deceive the enemy, as there was then snow upon the ground, he is said to have caused his horse's shoes to be reversed, but even this stratagem was discovered to them by a smith at Aberedwy, whose name as tradition says, was Madoc goch mân mawr, or red haired wide mouthed Madoc. He arrived at the bridge over the Wye, time enough to pass and break it down, before his pursuers could come up with him; here therefore they were completely thrown out, as there was no other bridge over the Wye at that time, nearer than Bredwardine, thirty miles below.

## HIS BETRAYAL AND ESCAPE.

"Thus foiled and disappointed of their prize for the present, the English immediately returned downward to a ford known to some of the party, about eight miles below, near a ferry called Caban Twm Bach, or Little Tom's ferry boat. In the interim, it should seem Llewelyn must have gained sufficient time to have distanced his followers, if he had made the best use of it, but he had not yet abandoned the expectation of meeting with assistance, and some hours may have been employed with the garrison of the castle of Builth, who awed by the approach of Mortimer, refused to treat with or support him. Stowe says 'he was taken to Builth castle, where using reproachful words against the Englishmen, Sir Roger le Strange ran upon him and cut off his head, leaving his dead body on the ground.' It is by no means improbable that he should have accused the garrison of Builth and the inhabitants of that country of perfidy, and, as Stowe says, used reproachful words towards the English. He may also have bestowed upon the men of Aberedwy<sup>1</sup> as well as of Builth, that epithet which has stuck by them ever since, but he certainly was not slain at Builth castle, or by Sir Roger le Strange, for being he e repulsed by those from whom he expected support, and baffled in his attempts to reduce them to obedience, he proceeded westward up the vale of Irvon on the southern side, for about three miles, where he crossed the river a little above Llanynis church over a bridge called Ponty y coed, or the bridge of the wood, either with an intention of returning into North Wales through Llanganten, Llanavan fawr, Llanwrthwl, and from thence into Montgomeryshire, or perhaps of joining his friends in Caermarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, to oppose whom Oliver de Dyneham had been sent by the directions of the King of England, as appears by his letter from Rhuddlan. This passage once secured, he stationed the few troops who accompanied him, on the northern side of the river, where, from the ground being more precipitous and much higher than the opposite bank, and at the same time covered with wood, a handful of men were able to defend the bridge against a more numerous enemy: in this situation he preserved a communication with the whole of Brecknockshire, and as he supposed the river was at this season<sup>2</sup> of the year impassable, he waited with confidence and security, while he commanded the pass, in hopes to hear further from his correspondents, or in expectation of being reinforced from the westward.

## LLEWELYN SLAIN BY SIR ELIAS WALWYN.

"By this means the English forces gained sufficient time to come up with him, and appearing on the southern side of the Irvon, made a fruitless attempt to gain the bridge; here they probably would have been compelled to have abandoned the pursuit, or at least Llewelyn might have escaped in safety to the mountains of Snowdon, if a knight of the name of Sir Elias Walwyn (a descendant of Sir Phillip Walwyn of Hay), had not discovered a ford at some like distance, where a detachment of the English crossed the river and coming unexpectedly upon the backs of the Welsh at the bridge, they were immediately routed, and either in the pursuit or while he was watching the motions of the main body of the enemy, who were still on the other side of the river, he was attacked in a small dell about two hundred yards below the scene of action, from him called Cwm Llewelyn, or Llewelyn's dingle, and slain unarmed (as some say) by one Adam de Francton, who plunged a spear into his body, and immediately joined his countrymen in pursuit of the flying enemy. Of this Adam

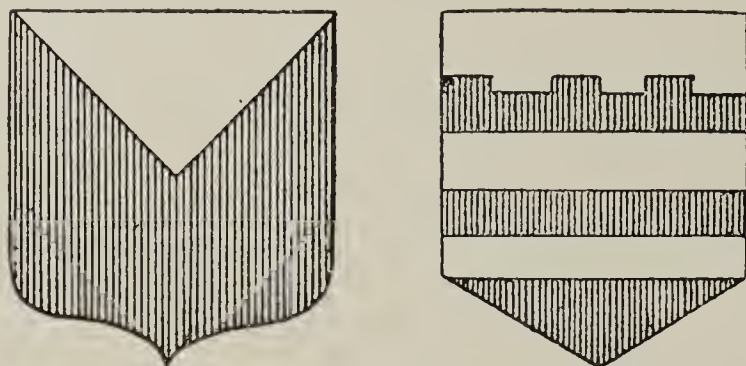
<sup>1</sup> Bradwyr Aberedwy, Bradwyr Bualt. (Traitors of Aberedwy, traitors of Builth.)

<sup>2</sup> It is clear from the snow, as well as from Edward's letter, dated 12th November, 1282, that the circumstance related

passed in the depth of winter. Polydore Virgil says, this battle was fought on the 10th of December, and Carte, in his *History of England*, quoting the chronicle of Dunstable, asserts that the Welsh lost two thousand men in this engagement. Sed. 9.



de Franeton, or perhaps Adam de Frampton, we have no account in history, nor is it known what rank he held in the English army, but it appears by Gough's *Sepulchral Monuments*, vol. 1. pages 88 and 89, that forty-three years after this transaction a person of that name was buried at Wyburton church, between Boston and *Frampton* in Lincolnshire: his tomb has the figure of a man and woman cut in strokes upon it, and underneath, the following arms and inscriptions in characters of the time.



CHI GIST SIBILLA LA FEMME ADAM DE  
FRANTON KI TRESPASSA L' AN DE GRACE MCCC  
CHI GIST ADAM DE FRANTON KI TRESPASSA EN  
L' AN DE GRACE MCCCXXV LE XXVIII YME JOUR  
DE DECEMBRE PRIETZ POUR S' ALME<sup>1</sup>

BURIAL PLACE OF THE WELSH PRINCE.

"In all probability this man of Wyburton was the slayer of Llewelyn, especially as the first shield is not unlike that of the Mortimers, under whom he served. Be this as it may, when Franeton returned after the engagement in hopes of plunder, he perceived that the person whom he had wounded (for he was still alive), was the prince of Wales, and on stripping him, a letter in cypher and his privy seal was found concealed about him. The Englishman, delighted with the discovery, immediately cut off his head, and sent it (as the most acceptable present that could be conveyed) to the king of England. The body of the unfortunate prince was dragged by the soldiers to a little distance where the two roads from Builth now divide, one leading to Llanafan and the other to Llangammareh; here they buried him, and this spot has been ever since known by the name of Cefn y bedd<sup>2</sup> or Cefn bedd Llewelyn, the ridge of Llewelyn's grave. A copy of the letter found upon him was soon afterwards sent by Edmund Mortimer to the archbishop of Canterbury, who was then at Pembridge in Herefordshire, to be forwarded to the king; the primate in the course of conveying this transcript to his majesty, adds such further intelligence as had reached him, from which it appears, that dame Matilda Longspee had interfered upon hearing of Llewelyn's death intreating he might be absolved from the sentence of excommunication, and his body buried in a consecrated place. This request Mortimer, with the gallantry of a soldier and the affection of a relation (though that kinsman was an enemy), warmly seconded, by stating an assurance he received from those who were present when Llewelyn expired, that before his death he called for a priest, and that a white monk, who happened to be near, chaunted mass to him previous to his dissolution.

#### MAUD COUNTESS SALISBURY PLEADS FOR RITES OF SEPULTURE.

"Maud or Matilda Longspee, Countess of Salisbury, who thus kindly endeavoured to procure for the corpse of Llewelyn the rites of sepulture, and who married for her first husband William Longspee, the second earl of that name, was the only daughter and heiress of Walter de Clifford, governor of the castles of Carmarthen and Cardigan, by his second wife Margaret daughter of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, aunt to the deceased prince. Maud lived sometimes at Clifford castle in Herefordshire, and at other times at Bronllys in Brecknockshire; she married secondly Sir John Giffard of Brimsfield in Gloucestershire, who in her right became seized of these possessions, and who was so situated that notwithstanding this family connexion of his wife's, he was compelled by his allegiance to his sovereign to become one of the leaders of the English troops by whom Llewelyn was defeated and slain.

<sup>1</sup> The inscription is given in Gough in the old letters, which are all capitals and perfectly legible, but it is very extraordinary that the copyer's explanation is not only incorrect in the spelling, but it has omitted some of the words in the original.

<sup>2</sup> Cefn is the ridge or summit of a gently rising, and not very

high hill. Owen, in his dictionary, writes that word singularly, "Cevyn," though all the derivations or compound words formed from it, as Cefndwn, Cefnbant, he spells in the common way, substituting (as his plan is) the *v* for the *f*.





HAY IN 1805

(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).







"No attention was paid to the request of Maud or the recommendation of Mortimer, and the remains of Llewelyn instead of being *bones of contention* among the loyal inhabitants of York and Winchester, as his brother David's<sup>1</sup> afterwards became, were permitted to rot at Cefn-y-bedd in unhallowed ground.

"Those who have attentively read the history of Llewelyn, of whatever country they may be, will lament the fate, and sigh while they contemplate the fall of the last and greatest of the Welsh princes. His grandfather, Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, had courage and considerable talents, but he was savage in manners, variable in politics, fickle in his attachment and brutal in his revenge. During the greatest part of his life he had a mere driveller to oppose, but the last Llewelyn had to contend with an Alexander, supported by superior numbers and revenues; in short he had all the virtues of his ancestor with scarcely any of his vices, he had infinitely more difficulties to encounter, and when he was favoured with the smiles of fortune he owed them entirely to his own merit and exertions.<sup>2</sup>

## ERECTION OF MORLAIS CASTLE.

"To return to Bohun. In the 14th year of Edward the First, he was with the king's army in Wales, and received scutage of all his tenants: his late guardian the Earl of Gloucester was now possessed of the neighbouring lordship of Glamorgan, but certain untoward circumstances had destroyed all intercourse between them. Carte thus relates the story: Gilbert earl of Gloucester had lately erected a castle<sup>3</sup> on the frontiers of Glamorgan, but situated in the county of Brecknock, upon lands belonging to Bohun, who complained of the injury in the king's court; Edward had reserved the cognizance of the cause to himself, and in the meantime forbade both to prosecute the quarrel by hostilities, or to disturb the peace of the country. This prohibition however did not prevent Gilbert's bailiffs and vassals from invading by his direction, and with his banner displayed, the territories of Humphrey, burning houses, killing several persons, carrying off cattle, and committing several other depredations. These enormities were perpetrated in the months of February, June, and December in the last mentioned year. The Glamorganshire men animated by impunity made afterwards frequent incursions into Breconshire, plundering wherever they marched, and to add sacrilege to their other crimes not sparing even the churches. Humphrey's vassals had hitherto been passive, but his bailiffs raiding them on one of these last occasions, followed the robbers into Gilbert's territories, slew some of them and rescued their own cattle. They carried off likewise some of the people of the latter, and were received by their own lord with their booty, who ordered it to be detained until satisfaction had been made for the injuries his tenants had sustained. The king resolving to put an end to such hostilities between his subjects, to maintain peace and order in every part of his kingdom, and to punish those who had insulted his authority and disobeyed his injunctions, issued a special commission for inquiring into the facts; which were found by a jury indifferent to both parties, being inhabitants of the neighbouring counties, to have passed as here related.

## DISPUTE BETWEEN EARL OF GLOUCESTER AND HUMPHREY DE BOHUN.

"The inquest being returned to the king on the 10th of September, being the day after his mother's funeral, sitting in his Council at Ambresbury, he called upon the two earls to answer for their contempt of his inhibition. Gloucester endeavoured to excuse himself by the custom of the marches and other trifling and insufficient pretences. Humphrey, though perhaps not strictly justifiable, was certainly less to blame than his opponent. The king however hearing that he too had ventured to disturb the peace of the country against his express command, soon afterwards ordered another inquest, returnable before himself and council in three weeks after Michaelmas, to inquire into disorders committed since the former verdict, by which Gloucester alone had been found guilty, but now it appeared that Hereford had consented to his vassals' depredations, by encouraging them to retaliate upon the men of Glamorganshire, and receiving and detaining the cattle they had taken from

<sup>1</sup> Warrington informs us, upon the authority of the annals of Waverley, that when David ap Griffith's quarters were condemned by the sentence of the courtiers of Edward the First at Shrewsbury, to be placed in different parts of the kingdom, the cities of York and Winchester contended with a savage eagerness for the *right shoulder* of this unfortunate prince, and that that honour was decided in favour of Winchester! Can this possibly be true?

<sup>2</sup> The death of this prince is described in so confused and unintelligible a manner by different authors, that those who know the country are more at a loss to comprehend the circumstances attending it than even strangers. From an attentive perusal of *all* the accounts related by all the historians who have

written upon these transactions (as far at least as we have been able to collect them) as well as from tradition and a survey of the supposed scene of action, we have endeavoured to give as accurate a relation as it was in our power, and we have reconciled the differences between them, without imputing any flagrant error or mistake to any of them where it could be avoided. Warrington has given a faulty translation of a very extravagant ode on the death of this prince, which those who think in Welsh, as they do in English who prefer Chaucer to Pope or Dryden, will perhaps admire.

<sup>3</sup> Marlais castle near Merthyr Tydvil (as we apprehend); this is now in Glamorganshire, but within a stone's throw of Breconshire.



thence. He was likewise taken into custody, and the liberties of both seized into the king's hands, this being the ordinary and legal punishment in such cases, for when it was not easy to discover or come at the vassal, the lord of the liberty was responsible for his offence; yet they were both dismissed upon giving bail for their appearance upon the seventeenth of January then next, at Westminster, and till then their liberties were replevied, when the king's court, consisting of the archbishops, bishops, earls, barons and others of his council had considered the case, they abated something of the rigour of the law (by which their regalities and franchises would have been forfeited for ever), to the earl of Gloucester for the sake of his wife and her issue, who were innocent of the offence, and to the earl of Hereford, because he was less guilty than the other, having received considerable provocation from him. They adjudged (the king pronouncing sentence) that the liberties of Glamorgan and Brecknock should be forfeited for their respective lives, and both their persons taken into custody, to remain in prison till ransomed at the king's pleasure: Brecknock was committed in trust to Roger de Burghull or Burchill, probably a descendant of Bernard Newmarch's Sir Humphrey Burchill, though his name is not found in the family pedigree. In this situation they were not continued long before they were permitted to compound with the crown, Hereford for one thousand, Gloucester for ten thousand marks, when upon giving security for the payment of the money, they were restored to liberty and the possession of their estates.

#### HUMPHREY DE BOHUN'S CHARACTER.

"This Humphrey, in his political character, was a zealous partizan in the cause of liberty, steady in his opposition to the encroachments of royal prerogative, and strenuous in asserting the constitutional rights and privileges of the subject; several instances of his undaunted spirit are recorded in the history of the times. When ordered by the king to accompany the Earl Marshal to the continent, they both resisted, insisting upon their privileges, and saying that if his majesty went thither in person, they were ready to attend him, but otherwise by the nature of their services they were exempt from obedience to such a command. The language of the Earl Marshal is said to have been indecently warm on the occasion. Upon the king's threatening them for their contempt of his authority, they withdrew from court and took up arms, and such was now the situation of the Kingdom, that his majesty thought it more prudent to submit to the affront than to persevere in insisting on their obedience. Here we see the same nobleman, who a little while back was compelled to throw himself entirely at the mercy of his sovereign, set the same monarch at defiance, and resist his orders with impunity; but the power of the crown varied in these days with the circumstances of the times, and even the great statesman and legislator Edward was occasionally compelled to bow to them, and relax from his severity. At another period we find de Bohun leagued with other malcontents prohibiting the lord treasurer and barons of the exchequer from levying that tax of the eighth penny upon the people, which the parliament of Edmundsbury had granted to the crown, and openly inviting the Londoners to join him in the recovery of their liberties; for this he was suspended from his office of high constable.

"During the king's absence in Flanders, Prince Edward, then left regent of public affairs, summoned him and the Earl Marshal to attend their duty in Parliament; they came, it is true, but they were attended by five hundred horse and a large body of infantry, and they even refused to enter the city unless their own men were allowed to keep the gates. Neither would they agree to anything there proposed, unless the king would confirm the great charter and the charter of the forest with some additional articles, that no subsidies should from thenceforward be exacted from the clergy or laity, but by consent of the lords, and finally that themselves and all others concerned with them, who had refused to go into Flanders should be freely pardoned. Humiliating to royal dignity, as all these concessions were, Edward was once more necessitated to comply with, and perform them.

#### HIS GRANTS TO BURGESSES OF BRECKNOCK.

"This Humphrey de Bohun appears upon the list of benefactors to the monks of Brecknock, to whom he confirms all the grants of his predecessors. By charter, dated at Chatley, 4 Edward I., he renewed and considerably augmented the privileges of the burgesses of Brecknock, expressly endowing them with liberties and immunities, in the same large and ample manner as he had before granted to the city of Hereford. He died at Plessy in 1298, and was buried at Saint Mary's chapel at Walden in Essex: upon this event one of our historians observes, that 'England in him lost one of the best friends, as Edward did one of the severest checks either had ever known.' The lordships of Blânlyfni and Dinas were now possessed by John, the son of Reginald Fitzpeter, who was summoned to parliament from the twenty-second to the end of this reign, and in the first of King



Edward the Second, by the title of Lord Fitzreginald of Blânlllyfni, and Roger Mortimer was styled Baron of Penkelly: they both appear upon the list of those patriots mentioned by Doctor Howel, who withstood the Papal usurpation when he claimed Scotland from King Edward the First.

“Their spirited memorial is recorded in the parliamentary register. John Fitzreginald was a benefactor to the monks of Brecknock and Llanthony. In the ninth of Edward the First, John Giffard obtained a charter for free warren within his lordship of Bronllys, which, as has been before observed, he held *jure uxoris*; in 1287 we find him constable of the castle of Builth, which he held under the crown of England, and during this reign he was created Lord Giffard of Brimsfield in the county of Gloucester. He died in the year 1295 possessed of the castle and manor of Bronllys and the manor of Glazbury: the last heir male of this house died in 1322, and the barony has been since claimed by the Talbot and Howard families.

#### HUMPHREY'S SON MARRIES A DAUGHTER OF THE KING.

“Wonderful are the turns and changes which the pages of history unfold! Strange are the revolutions which courtly interest has power to effect! We have just seen the independent Humphrey boldly withstanding the despotic views of Edward, and with a patriot spirit defending the liberties of the subject, and now we are to behold the eldest son of that very lord by way of atonement for his father's conduct, surrendering the inheritance of all his lands with the earldoms of Hereford and Essex, together with the constablenesship of England, into the hands of the crown, and shortly after marrying the daughter of that prince whose power the elder Humphrey had so frequently resisted with success: this last circumstance, whatever disgrace it may throw upon his principles, may perhaps account for the different conduct of the father and son. The wife of the latter was Elizabeth, seventh daughter of Edward the First, by Eleanor his first wife: at the early age of fourteen she was married to John, earl of Holland and Zealand, and lord of Friezeland, with the noble dower of eight thousand pounds per annum. This lord dying without issue, she took for her second husband the Earl of Hereford: upon this event the king restored to him all his titles and estates, reserving however to the crown in case he should leave no male issue, the reversion of the greatest part of the English property, together with the constablenesship, and providing that the estates in Bucks, Wilts, Gloucestershire, Huntingdon in Herefordshire, as well as those in Wales, namely Brecknock, Hay, and Caldecot, and Newton in the marches, should descend to the heirs at law of Bohun.

#### HUMPHREY IN REVOLT AGAINST GAVESTON.

“By charter, dated at Brecknock, on Good Friday the first of Edward the Second, this lord renewed and confirmed the privileges of that borough, to which he was very liberal, and where his memory was for ages so long respected, that Hugh Thomas dignifies him with the epithet of *noble*. Whatever his conduct might have been to his dependents and tenants, it is clear that his submission to Edward the First was either per force or dictated by policy; it is indeed more than probable that it may be attributed to both. In the first place, his father's death had weakened the powers of his faction or party, and the Earl Marshal conscious of his loss, and knowing the resolute, though generous disposition of the king, had thought proper to temporize and resign not only his office, but nearly the whole of his estate to the crown. Edward satisfied with having humbled his haughty spirit, graciously regranted him the greater part with the honours for his life, which he quietly enjoyed for the short remainder of it. Actuated by the same principle and knowing that all opposition would be vain, the lord of Brecknock thought it most prudent to follow the example set before him: his submission was certainly much facilitated, and his reconciliation with the sovereign rendered more palatable, by the flattering prospect held out to him in the projected union with his daughter. The event has been related and his allegiance was secured for the present reign, but no sooner had the death of the first Edward placed a new monarch on the throne (although that monarch was his brother-in-law), than the opposing and restless spirit of the Bohuns again became conspicuous. The unhappy partiality which the weak and youthful Edward manifested towards the stranger Gaveston, soon roused the jealousy of all the old nobility of England, and to such a height did they carry their resentment, that many of them refused to grace his majesty's coronation with their presence, until he had consented to the banishment of that obnoxious favourite. To appease the barons, the king seemingly acquiesced and made a promise which he was determined to evade in the moment he was giving it. Of this the lords were soon made sensible, but it only served to render them more violent; they even came armed to parliament. Having bound themselves by an oath not to desist from their prosecution of Gaveston till they had deprived him of the Earldom of Cornwall, to which he had lately been advanced, and compelled him to quit the realm, they in a still louder and more authoritative tone, demanded his banishment. (A.D. 1308).



"The principals among those malcontents were the Earls of Lancaster, Warwick, Pembroke and Hereford. In the meantime the whole nation was in a distracted state, and a civil war was seriously apprehended. It is irrelevant and indeed unnecessary here to pursue the subject through all the particulars of the barons' violence, the monarch's weakness, and the insolence of Gaveston. Those who have read the history of England are well acquainted with the event; the latter fell a sacrifice to the unceasing vengeance of his enemies, and the former were sufficiently powerful to extort a pardon from their misguided and infatuated sovereign.

#### BRECKNOCK SUPPLIES MEN FOR THE WAR AGAINST SCOTLAND.

"While England was thus weakened by intestine faction, and the wretched indecision of a feeble head, the Scotch were daily gaining strength under the judicious auspices of a brave and able leader. The gallant Robert Bruce had already possessed himself of the greater part of Scotland, and even laid the English Marches under contribution, when the lethargy of Edward was at length awakened to a sense of danger, and he seemed to feel the necessity of arming to prevent his further progress. The military tenants of the crown were now called upon for their respective levies, and the king marched against the enemy at the head of one hundred thousand men; upon this occasion the lordship of Brecknock was charged with a levy of eight hundred men! Elvel and Builth raised two hundred, and the whole of Wales and the Marches six thousand one hundred, being nearly twelve hundred more than were furnished by twelve English counties, in which number is included the extensive county of York.<sup>1</sup> In the great battle of Bannock-Bourn, the Earl of Hereford was taken prisoner, and Henry de Bohun (undoubtedly a relation, perhaps his uncle), was slain in single combat by Bruce. It is said that Edward was not very anxious to obtain the release of his brother in law, but the Earl of Lancaster and his faction made such a point of it that they absolutely withheld the necessary supplies from government till they had effected it; the wife of Bruce therefore, and other Scotch prisoners of rank, were exchanged for de Bohun and his adherents.

"In the same year (says Dugdale from an old MS. in the possession of the Earl of Elgin) Humphrey de Bohun had a grant from the king of the castle of *Buelte*<sup>2</sup> in Ireland, in which year he entertained Sir Peter de Ouvedale (now written Uvedale), knight, by indenture to serve him during life, and to receive livery of robes, as his other bachelors, as also *bouche*<sup>3</sup> of court, with hay and oats for four horses, and wages for four groomes in times of peace, whensoever he should come to court by his command; but in times of warre and for *Tourney*,<sup>4</sup> hay and oats for eight horses, and wages for eight groomes with satisfaction for such horses and arms as he should lose in the war.' This custom of coming to court armed and followed by a numerous retinue in the same livery, or wearing clothes of the same colour, became so dangerous to the state, that in a subsequent reign it was found necessary to enact laws to prevent it.

#### REBELLION IN GLAMORGANSHIRE.

"In the year 1315 the Earl of Hereford, and all the lords of the Marches, raised their followers, and William de Montacute was sent by the king with a body of forces to suppress a formidable rebellion excited in Glamorganshire by one Llewelyn Bren (so Walsingham calls him) who had surprised the governor and taken the castle of Caerphili. This person (whom we do not find noticed by any Welsh writer) is said by Carte to have held a lucrative employment under the late Earl of Gloucester, but having been deprived of it by Payne de Turbeville, who acted under the crown upon the earl's death, he was incensed thereby to the commission of this violence. Without entirely rejecting the account given by this respectable historian, whose accuracy when he treats of the affairs of Wales exceeds that of any other English author who has preceded him, other causes may be assigned for this insurrection. Llewelyn Bren, as has been just observed, is not known in the Welsh annals, but pedigrees still preserved in the principality inform us that he was grandson to Ivor lord of Sanghenydd, of which district Caerphili was the manorial castle. Ifor being dispossessed of this fortress and the greatest part of his property, which descended to him from a long line of ancestry, by the Normans under Fitzhammon, left behind him no doubt some memorials of his right, and documents for its recovery at a fit opportunity.

"From the conqueror of Glamorganshire the castle of Caerphili and manor of Sanghenydd came to Gilbert earl of Clare by marriage. On failure of the male issue of this nobleman, it descended to

<sup>1</sup> We suspect some mistake here; it is highly improbable that Brecknock, even if Huntingdon and the Marches were added to it, could raise so large a force as eight hundred men in those days.

<sup>2</sup> It is difficult to say what Dugdale means by the castle of *Beulte* in Ireland. Builth in Breconshire was then in possession of the Mortimer family.

<sup>3</sup> Bouche of court, or as it commonly occurs Bowge of court was an allowance of diet or belly-provision from the king or superior lords to their knights, esquires, or other retinue, from the French Bouche, a mouth.

<sup>4</sup> Tourney, tourneyment or Tournament; i. e. provision for his horses when engaged in wars or tournaments.



his daughter Eleanor, who married the younger Spencer, and after his death, William Zouch of Mortimer, who in her right laid claim to it during the minority of her son by the first husband, and afterwards laid seige to it in 1329. During these contentions it should seem that Llewelyn Bren thought he might assert his claim with success, and in support of it, he brought, it is said, ten thousand men into the field, with whose assistance he assailed the castle and gained possession of it. To oppose him, the English monarch sent John Giffard, lord of Bronllys, who had been appointed custos of the lands of Gilbert, late Earl of Clare in Glamorganshire, or (as they are disfigured in the *Fædera*) in Glamorgan and Morgannon. He was directed to proceed under the command of Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford, the general of the forces on this expedition. Of the battles which were fought and the events that ensued in this campaign, little is known, but it is clear that this rebellion was soon suppressed, and that the Welsh chieftain and his two sons Griffith and Jeuan were taken prisoners and committed to the Tower of London, where they remained in June 1317, when the king commanded his treasurers and chamberlain, to pay John de Crumbwell, constable of that fortress, three pence a day for the support of each of them in future, as well as the arrears then due to him.

“The result of this short lived, though perhaps formidable rising, was unusually favourable to the Welsh inhabitants, who obtained a considerable alleviation of some of the old feudal services, by which they were bound to their lords, as well as an addition of several privileges before enjoyed by them, and which were granted in hopes to secure their future peaceable demeanour. Amongst others, the fines usually paid the lord by his tenants for the marriage of their daughters, called Amobr, or Gwobr Merch, were moderated, freeholders were allowed to put a son into holy orders, if they had more than one, without the king’s licence, and to dispose of their lands for three years to any of their countrymen of their own condition, except to monks and religious bodies. These, together with the previous indulgences by the Earl of Gloucester, which were very great, rendered the inhabitants of Glamorganshire easy and contented.

#### THE KING AND THE D’ESPENCERS.

“Scarcely were the troubles in Scotland terminated, when the king’s partiality for the two D’Espencers again discovered itself and set the nation in a flame: the elder of these noblemen he created Earl of Winchester, and the younger by his marriage with Eleanor eldest sister and co-heir of Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester, enjoyed that title. Hugh D’Espencer the younger had been placed by the Lancastrian faction in the office of chamberlain of the household to the king, a situation which gave him frequent opportunities of ingratiating himself and excluding all others from the notice of his master; he employed these advantages with such success that he soon supplied the place of Gaveston in the monarch’s friendship and favour. Gaveston and D’Espencer were both young and handsome in their persons, equally proud, haughty, ambitious, rapacious and debauched, but in point of avarice Hugh was, if possible, more insatiable than his predecessor; by his marriage he had obtained the greatest part of the territory of Glamorgan, and was very desirous of adding to it the neighbouring royalty of Gower. William de Breos, the then lord of Gower, was a dissolute and expensive man, of ruined fortune, and who, as has been seen, had carried on a kind of swindling transaction in the sale of these estates. In the first place, he had agreed to sell them to the Earl of Hereford, then to the two Mortimers who were ignorant of any former agreement, and lastly to Hugh D’Espencer, who had this advantage over his competitors, that he purchased with the king’s licence, and was supported by the royal authority. But there was yet another claimant, John de Mowbray, who had married de Breos’s daughter, and insisted upon her right to the inheritance; thus far Walsingham,<sup>1</sup> but Mr. Carte, inclining to the monk of Malmsbury, whose relation he says accords more nearly with the original deeds noticed by Sir William Dugdale, assumes it differently; according to him, William de Breos had two daughters, the eldest Aliva wife to John de Mowbray<sup>2</sup> the younger, Jane married to James de Bohun of Midherst, for whom the estate of Brambre lay very convenient, as that of Gower did for Mowbray.

“William therefore by a special deed granted the honour and land of Gower to John de Mowbray and Aliva, to the heirs of their bodies lawfully to be begotten, with remainder to Humphrey de Bohun Earl of Hereford and his heirs. In virtue of this grant, Mowbray entered upon the land

<sup>1</sup> Walsingham, *Hist. Angliæ*, p. 113, in Camden’s Script. Ang. Norman.

<sup>2</sup> The title of baron de Breos of Gower, was in 1805 possessed by the Earl of Berkley, whose ancestor, Sir Maurice Berkley, in the beginning of the fourteenth century married Elizabeth

daughter of Hugh D’Espencer, and soon afterwards James Berkley grandson of the above Sir Maurice married Isabel daughter of Thomas Mowbray, cousin and coheir of John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk, and widow of Henry Ferrers.



without any licence from the king, of whom it was held *in capite*, and this served young D'Espencer (who wanted to get into his hands a tract of country adjoining to his own) as a pretence to sue him in order to procure a sentence adjudging it to be forfeited. John and the Earl of Hereford, both interested in the settlement, alleged that the entry was made according to the customs of the Marches, and insisted upon their rights. As these were questions implicating every tenure there, the Lords Marchers were unanimous in resisting an inquiry: they loudly exclaimed against the rapacity of D'Espencer, which seemed to threaten all their possessions, and conscious that they had no other remedy than force, they in open arms demanded of the king that he should be either banished the realm or imprisoned and brought to trial. In this confederacy the names of de Bohun, Mortimer, Audley, Damory, Mowbray, Berkley, Tyes or Teys, Giffard and Talbot were the most distinguished. Finding that their menaces were disregarded, they proceeded to violence, and committed terrible devastation upon D'Espencer's property in Glamorganshire, killing and imprisoning his servants, burning, defacing and destroying his castles, and carrying off the effects found therein to a very great value, and they afterwards made such havoc in his manors in the western counties that twenty thousand pounds would have been insufficient to repair the damages. The insurgents then entered into a strict league with the Earl of Lancaster, and thus became sufficiently powerful to enforce a sentence of banishment against the obnoxious favourites. Both the D'Espencers were then abroad, and upon this account found it necessary to prolong their absence, yet afterwards they recovered sufficient strength to appeal against the sentence as informal and illegal, inasmuch as it had been passed against the king's will, and without the free assent of parliament, both being at the time in a kind of duress, and overawed by a force which they durst not contradict; these and other pleas were so successfully maintained and argued in their favour, that a reversal was speedily obtained, and the father and son recovered their liberty and property.

#### DEATH OF THE EARL OF HEREFORD.

"The faction still continuing in rebellion, the king, by the advice of his council, resolved to make head against them, and by force of arms to reduce them to obedience; so vigorously were his measures at this time carried into effect that several of the most powerful barons submitted to his mercy; but the Earl of Hereford with some others, and about three thousand of his followers, marched northwards, to join the Earl of Lancaster. Of those who submitted, the two Mortimers were sent to the Tower, Maurice Berkley and Hugh Audley (the father) to the castle of Wallingford, and the rest were imprisoned in different places, until it could be determined in what manner they were to be treated. The others, upon the determination of the truce with Scotland, joined the standard of Robert Bruce, but the cowardice of Lancaster, who fled at the first approach of the king's forces, entirely ruined their cause and they were defeated; the Earl of Hereford, endeavouring to pass the bridge at Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, was run through the body with a lance, by a Welshman, as is said, who lurked beneath it. He was buried at the Friars' Preachers at York, and his death happened, according to Dugdale, upon the 6th of March, 1321; the Earl of Lancaster was taken prisoner in the same battle and publicly executed as a rebel and traitor. Thus ended the great rebellion, which for a number of years had miserably embroiled the nation, and depopulated the country.

"The younger D'Espencer was now constituted governor of Brecknock castle; and afterwards obtained a grant of the lordship, together with Penkelly, Cantreff-Selyff, Blanllyfni, and Dinas, late the property of the Earl of Hereford and Roger Mortimer,<sup>1</sup> Giffard and Rhys ap Hywel, who had been attainted for the late rebellion. This last was the lineal descendant of Bleddyn ap Maenarch and grandson of that Tralaern fychan who was so inhumanly murdered by William de Breos of Brecknock. Rhys ap Hywel afterwards joined the party of the Queen, and was principally instrumental in seizing the person of his unhappy sovereign, when he was made a prisoner in Glamorganshire.

"Upon the death of the D'Espencers the several confiscations were reversed, and the property restored to the family of the former owners.

#### JOHN DE BOHUN MADE KNIGHT OF THE BATH.

"John de Bohun, eldest son of the deceased earl, succeeded to the family honours and estates. He married, first, Alice, daughter of Edmund Fitzalan earl of Arundel, who died in childbirth, and was buried in the same grave with her infant son, who expired soon after he was christened; his second wife was Margaret, daughter of Ralph lord Bassett of Drayton, by whom he had no issue.

<sup>1</sup> In the fourth of Edward the Second, Roger Mortimer of Chirk, second son of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore, by Maud de Breos, was appointed governor of the castles of Blanllyfni and Dinas, and in the following year had the inheritance of those lordships confirmed to him by the king, to hold for the third part of a barony by the service of two knight's fees.



Owing to his ill state of health he interfered very little in public business, but appointed his younger brother (Sir Edward Bohun) his lieutenant to execute the office of high constable of England: in this character he attended the king to Nottingham, when the plan was laid for apprehending the atrocious Mortimer, and with his brothers Humphrey and William he was greatly aiding in the execution of the business; but though John was not fond of an active life, it seems he had no dislike to honours and could occasionally exert himself in the service of his sovereign, for Dugdale informs us, that upon the 20th of January, 20 Edward II. (A.D. 1326) he was made a knight of the Bath, and had by Prince Edward's special commands the robes of an earl, for that solemnity, allowed him out of the king's wardrobe, after which, being girt with the sword of knighthood, he went with Edward the Third, in the first year of his reign to Scotland, and in the ninth of the same king's reign he was also in another expedition to that country. He died in 1335, and was buried at the abbey of Stratford le Bow, being at the time of his death possessed of the following manors: a tenement called Blanch-Appleton, in the city of London; the manor of Wokesey, in Wiltshire; Whittenhurst, in Gloucestershire; the castles of Hay, Brecknock, Caldecott and Huntingdon, in Wales and the Marches; the manor of Agmondesham, in the county of Bucks; Northamstead, in Hampshire; Enfield, in Middlesex; Farnham, Dunmow, Fobbing, Querndon, Badewe and Deepden in Essex; *Kenebauton*, with the castle and honour in Huntingdonshire; Walden, great Waltham and Plessets (or Plessy) with the castle in Essex also, and the lordship of Donne also in Middlesex, which he held jointly with his second wife Margaret. Eleanor, a sister of this earl, was married to James le Botiller, Earl of Carrick, afterwards Earl of Ormond. Carte says, that in the third year of the reign of Edward the Third, the king gave licence to Edward (he should have said John) de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, to grant the manors of Kilpec and Trunell in the county of Hereford, and the bailiffship of the forest of Hay, to the said James Earl of Ormond and Eleanor his wife, and the heirs of their bodies. From the issue of this marriage descended the celebrated James Butler, duke of Ormond, who, upon the restoration of Charles the Second, was created Earl of Brecknock and Baron of Llanthony.

## HUMPHREY DE BOHUN DISFRANCHISES BRECKNOCK.

"Humphrey de Bohun succeeded to the titles and property of his brother John, when he was twenty-four years of age. Dugdale styles him, 'Nobilis Armiger Seigneur de Breckenock.' In the eleventh of Edward the Third (A.D. 1337) he had one hundred and forty six pounds fourteen shillings and eight-pence assigned him for the wages of thirty men at arms, of his retinue in the garrison of Perth in Scotland, from the fourteenth of November, in the tenth year of that king's reign, to the twentieth of April then next following; and in the fourteenth of the same monarch, he was in the great naval engagement at Sluys, when the French were defeated: afterwards in his character of high constable of England, he attended the king in his expedition to France, accompanied by three hundred men from his lordship of Brecknock. In 1347 he was called upon to collect as many men as could be found fit for service within his territories, for the defence of the kingdom, and in the twenty-sixth of Edward the Third, that monarch apprehending an invasion by the French, commanded Humphrey de Bohun forthwith to repair to some of his lordships in Essex, there to give his assistance in case any such attempt should be made; and upon a commission of array in the same year, he was charged with sixty men for his honour of Brecknock, after which nothing more is heard of his military exploits.

"Upon some offence given him he wholly disfranchised the burgesses of Brecknock, revoking and rescinding all grants and charters whatsoever given them by his ancestors, and deaf to all entreaties, as well as the most humble submission, he kept them in a state of servile dependence during the remainder of his life. The cause of this arbitrary proceeding is not known, but probably the men of Brecknock proved refractory upon the subject of the levies. Hugh Thomas, upon this, remarks with some spleen that 'he was never married, and always sick, which made him a cross peevish old bachelor.' The monks of Walden however speak more handsomely of him, 'Humfredus de Bohun &c. Londoniæ quiescit in ecclesia Fratrum Augustinensium, qui claustrum nostrum et illorum honorifice construxit; æterna gaudia reddet ei Altissimus, qui singulis secundum viris meritum confert diversa stipendia meritorum.'

## BEQUEST TO THE FRIARS' PREACHERS AT BRECON.

"By his will, dated in October 1361, a short period before his death (in which he styles himself 'Counte de He'ford et D'Eez (Essex) et Seign'r de Breken),' he devised one hundred marks to the priory of Saint John's in Brecknock, to be divided among them for the benefit of the house, provided they would pardon and assoil him for what he owed them, and pray for him; to the *friars preachers* of Brecon he gave ten pounds to pray for him, and to the like religious order at Chelmsford ten pounds upon the same condition: he particularly enjoined that his jewels should be the last things



sold, and that after payment of his debts their value should be applied to charitable purposes, 'because (says he) we have great delight in looking at them.' He died at his castle of Plessy or Plesset in Essex, leaving his brother William's son his heir.

"In 1346 the castles of Blânlllyfni and Dinas, late Roger Mortimer's, were by grant from the crown held by Gilbert lord Talbot of Goodrich castle (who in the fourth of this reign had been constituted justice of South Wales), for the term of his natural life, and afterwards in consideration of his eminent services to the State, the grant was extended to the inheritance of these demesnes. He died this year, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who was then charged with the finding one hundred men well armed from his lordships of Blânlllyfni, Crickhowel and Ystradyw.

"William de Bohun the twin brother of Edward, who was drowned after the death of his brother John, was created Earl of Northampton, by King Edward the Third; he married Elizabeth daughter of the Lord Bartholomew of Baddlesmere, and widow of Lord Edmond de Mortimer, in whose right he held the lordship of Melenydd in Radnorshire, and other possessions in the Marches. He died September 15, 1350, and was buried at Walden, leaving the earldom of Northampton to his son Humphrey, who upon the death of his uncle succeeded also to the earldoms of Hereford and Essex, and all the family honours and estates, but being a minor, he was committed to the guardianship of Richard Fitzalan Earl of Arundel (whose daughter Joan he afterwards married), 'whereupon (says Dugdale) he had licence from the king to travel, and the next year being of full age, he had livery of his lands: shortly after which, viz., in the fortieth of Edward the Third (A.D. 1366) he was the principal person employed in that embassie unto Galachius duke of Milan, to treat with him for a marriage betwixt Leonel duke of Clarence and Violanta daughter of that duke; and in the forty-third of Edward the Third (A.D. 1369), he was in that expedition then made into France, so also in the forty-sixth of Edward the Third.' (A.D. 1372).

"According to Hugh Thomas he lived in great splendour in the castle of Brecknock, which he considerably enlarged, and fitted up in the best style of the times. To conciliate the good will and friendship of his neighbours, he restored to the disfranchised burgesses, all those chartered liberties of which the severity of his uncle Humphrey had deprived them.

#### WILLIAM DE BOHUN'S CHARTER TO BRECKNOCK.

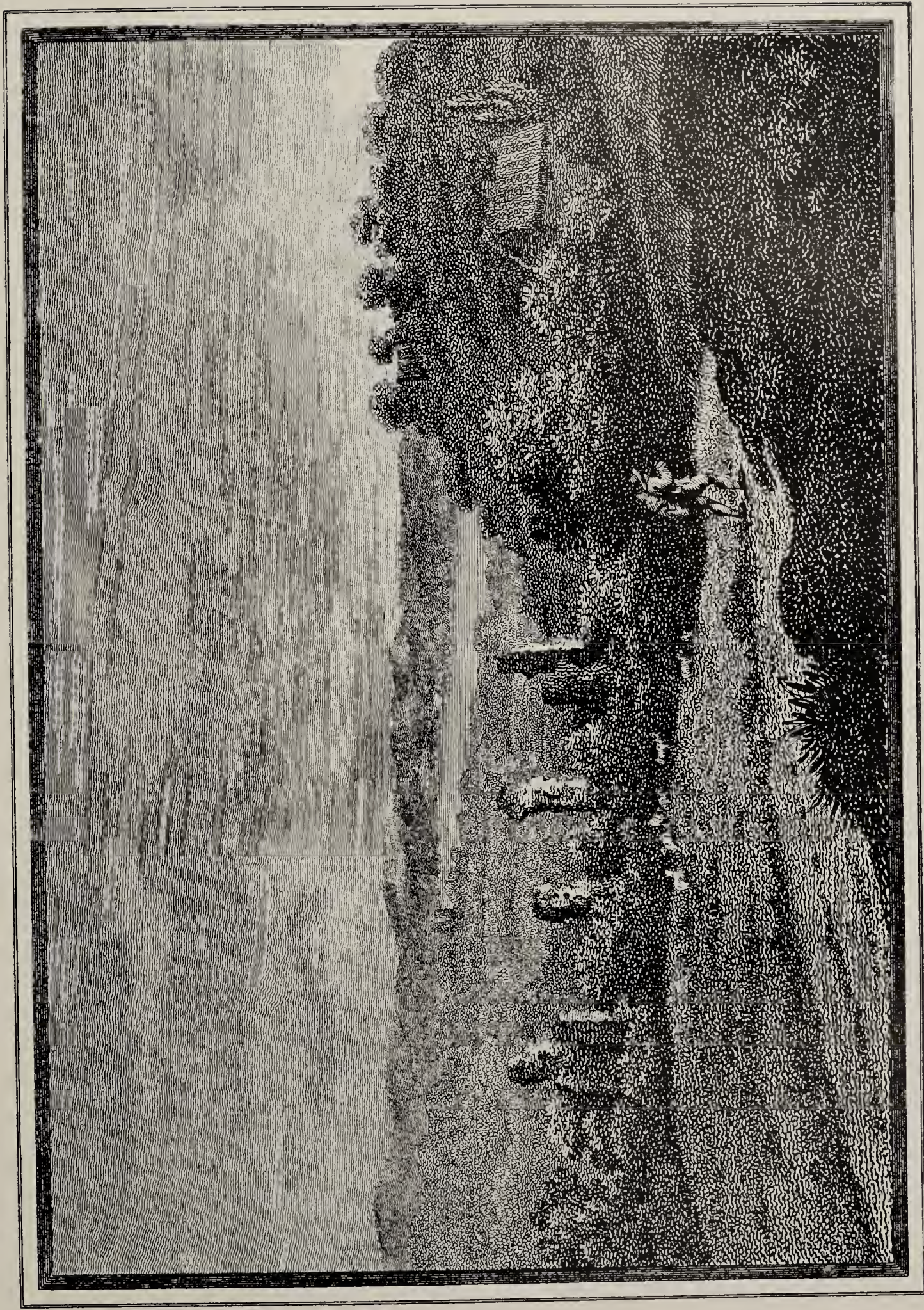
"By a charter, dated at Brecknock February 16th, the thirty-ninth of Edward the Third, upon a fine of sixty marks, he privileged them to hold a fair for sixteen days together, viz., eight days before, and eight days after the festival of St. Leonard (16 November) annually: this, together with the large demand for provisions of every kind, occasioned by the hospitality of the Earl, and the great resort of company to the castle, elevated Brecknock to a consequence it had never known before, and made it the great mart of South Wales. The character of this noble lord was as conspicuous on the theatre of public life, as it was amiable within the smaller circle of his dependents; he has been just now seen discharging a very important trust, in which the interest of the royal family was concerned, and repeatedly accompanying his sovereign to France. In the forty-fifth of Edward the Third (1371) he was again employed in a diplomatic mission to the Duke of Bretagne, for the purpose of concluding an alliance with that prince against France, and was present in the same year in the naval fight, in which the Flemish fleet under Peterson was defeated. For eleven years he lived a friend and blessing to all around him, and when he died, they lost a father, a good and worthy lord.

#### WILLIAM'S DEATH, AND BURIAL PLACE.

"He died in 1377, and was buried at Walden (although his effigies in stone is in the south aisle of the choir of Gloucester), leaving two daughters, Eleanor married to Thomas Plantagenet, surnamed of Woodstock, sixth son of King Edward the Third, and Mary who married Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards King Henry the Fourth. The earldoms of Essex and Northampton were the inheritance of the eldest, and in her right enjoyed by her husband, who was appointed constable of England, during the royal pleasure; the Earl of Derby was created duke of Hereford. The lordship of Brecon seems to have remained in settlement during the widowhood of Joan the countess dowager of Hereford. Eleanor died the 3rd of October 1390, and was buried at St. Edmund's Chapel, Westminster, where her monument still remains; Mary died in the year 1419, and was buried in the abbey of Walden in Essex.

"Thus ended the male line of the noble race of the Bohuns lords of Brecknock, the last of whom made ample amends for the tyranny or worthlessness of some of his predecessors, most of whom seemed to have considered their Welsh territories of no further use than as a source of revenue, or a nursery for soldiers.





BLARNEY CASTLE IN 1805

*(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare.)*







“In the parliament held at Westminster, the twenty-eight of Edward the Third, Roger the son of Edmond Mortimer obtained a reversal of the judgment given against his father as erroneous and void, upon which he was restored to the title of Earl of March, and had restitution of the lordships of Blânlyfni and Dinas, with several others of the forfeited estates. He died February 26, 1360, the thirty fourth of Edward the Third, at Ronera in Burgundy, possessed of the manors and castles of Radnor, Gwrthrynton, Cwmydauddwr, Cefnlllys, Melenydd, Pilleth and Knucklas in Radnorshire, the cantred of Builth and the manors and castles of Blânlyfni and Dinas in Brecknockshire, and of a moiety of the lordship of Ewyas in Herefordshire. He was brought to England to be buried, and though his sepulture took place in Wigmore Abbey, yet there was a solemn obsequie kept for him in the royal chapel at Windsor, the king assigning a cloth of gold called *Beaudekyn* (Royal Wills) out of his great wardrobe for the celebration thereof; he was succeeded in title and estate by Edmond his son and heir.

## HENRY OF BOLINBROKE.

“Henry the Fourth, surnamed of Bolingbroke (where he was born), by his marriage with Mary the youngest daughter of Humphrey de Bohun the last, enjoyed the earldom of Hereford, and was afterwards elevated to the dukedom, he had also the lordship of Brecknock in reversion, though Hugh Thomas gives it to his uncle, who married the eldest sister. To follow Henry through all his circumstances until he deposed his cousin Richard the Second, and assumed the crown, will be wholly unnecessary, and indeed irrelevant here; that he was an usurper is clear, for Richard’s resignation was undoubtedly forced, and he had previously declared the Earl of March his heir. There is something very singular in the character of this unfortunate monarch, as described by historians, as well as Shakespeare; in the early part of his life, and while he sat upon the throne, he was thoughtless, extravagant, fickle, fond of dress, and entirely addicted to gaiety and dissipation.

Fair laughs the morn and soft the zephyr blows,  
While proudly riding o’er the azure realm,  
In gallant trim the gilded vessel goes,  
Youth at the prow and pleasure at the helm,  
Regardless of the furious whirlwind’s sway,  
Which hush’d in grim repose expects his evening’s prey.<sup>1</sup>

“Yet though we see the captain of the ship, while the favouring gale continued, talking like a fool, acting like a madman, and playing ‘such antic tricks before high heaven as made the angels weep,’ yet the howling of the blast no sooner reaches his ears, than all his follies fly with it, no sooner does the iron arm of adversity fall upon the hitherto giddy and unthinking Richard, than he becomes the hero and the philosopher, the moralist and the christian. Though Shakespeare may not be correct as to the very words used by him, the poet is better supported by history, even in the most minute particulars of his conduct after he was deserted by his subjects, than is generally supposed. There is something so truly pathetic, so extremely beautiful in the reflections of the son of ‘the sable warrior,’ upon hearing of the fate of some of his favourites, that we cannot resist reminding the reader of them:—

Within the hollow crown  
That rounds the mortal temples of a king;  
Keeps Death his court,—and there the Antick sits  
Scoffing his state and grinning at his pomp,  
Allowing him a breath; a little scene  
To monarchize, be fear’d and kill with looks;  
Infusing him with self and vain conceit,  
As if this flesh, which walls about our life,  
Were brass impregnable; and humour’d thus,  
Comes at the last, and with a little pin  
Bores through his castle wall,—and——farewell king!<sup>2</sup>

## EINION SAIS’S CASTLE NEAR LLANSPYDDID.

“During the four first years of the reign of Henry the Fourth, the territory of Brecknock was greatly harrassed by the incursions of that bold and enterprizing chieftain Owen Glyndwr or Glyndwrwy, who exclusive of the enmity which he inveterately bore to the house of Lancaster, had a personal quarrel with the well known David Gam, a native of that county, and a warm supporter of the Lancastrian interest. Irritable as these chiefs and indeed all Welshmen are supposed to be, they were fired by the madness of party rage and opposing factions, insomuch that their resentment against each other became as violent as it was implacable. A brief introduction to these celebrated partizans may not perhaps be unacceptable. Einion, the second son of Rhys ap Hywel,

<sup>1</sup> Gray’s Bard.

<sup>2</sup> We cannot help lamenting that this drama is not more familiar to an English audience; while the curses of the bel-

ladies in Richard the Third are tolerated, some of Shakespeare’s most beautiful passages in Richard the Second are almost overlooked.



whose attainder has been noticed, embraced a military life, and served our Third Edward in the memorable battles of Cressy and Poitiers; after a long residence in England he returned to his native country with considerable opulence, and married the rich heiress of Howel, lord of Miscin in Glamorganshire. He became possessed by purchase of nearly the whole of what is now called the hundred of Devynnock, from Llywel on the borders of Carmarthenshire to the river Tarell near Brecon. He built a castellated mansion for his residence in the parish of Llanspyddid, lately called the castle field, now (1805) the property of Penry Williams of Penpont, Esq. It is described to have been situated on the fall of a small brook into the Usk, near Bcttws or Penpont chapel: there is still an unevenness in the surface of the ground, though there are not now the smallest vestiges of buildings remaining. Hugh Thomas, who wrote in 1698, recollects to have seen the ruins, and there were others living in 1805 who remember the rubbish being removed and the soil cleared of the stones and materials of the walls: it was called from the owner, Castell Einion Sais, or Einion the Englishman's castle, an appellation by which the Welsh sometimes distinguish not only the English settlers among them, but also their own countrymen, who have been brought up and educated in England.

DAVID GAM, SHAKESPEARE'S "FLUELLIN."

"David Llewelyn or Dafydd ap Llewelyn, generally called David Gam, or squinting David, was the fourth in descent from Einion Sais, and inherited the estate and demense of Castell Einion Sais; his father Llewelyn had also purchased the mansions and lands of Peyton (Wallice Peityn), now called Peityn gwin, Peityn du, and Peityn glâs, in the parishes of Garthbrengy and Llanddew, from William Peyton, the last Brecknockshire resident of that Norman family, for three hundred marks. In consequence of an affray in the High Street of Brecknock, in which David unfortunately killed his kinsman Ritsiart fawr o'r Slwch, he was compelled to fly into England, and to avoid a threatened prosecution for the murder, attached himself to the Lancastrian party, to whose interest he ever afterwards most faithfully adhered. There can be little doubt but that Shakespeare in his burlesque character of Fluellin intended David Gam, though for obvious reasons, as his descendants were then well known and respected in the English court, he chose to disguise his name. We have called Fluellin a burlesque character, because his pribbles and prabbles, which are generally out heroded, sound ludicrously to an English as well as a Welsh ear. Yet after all, Llewelyn is a brave soldier and an honest fellow; he is admitted into a considerable degree of intimacy with the king and stands high in his good opinion, which is strong presumptive proof, notwithstanding Shakespeare, the better to conceal his object, describes the death of Sir David Gam, that he intended David Llewelyn by this portrait of the testy Welshman, for there was no other person of that country in the English army, who could have been supposed to have been upon such terms of familiarity with the king. And it must be observed, that Llewelyn was the name by which he was known in that army, and not Gam or squinting, by which epithet, though it was afterwards assumed by his family, he would probably have knocked down any man who dared to address him. By his behaviour on this memorable day, he in some measure made amends for a life of violence and rapine, and raised his posterity into riches and respect; but alas! how weak, how idle is family pride, how unstable worldly wealth! At different periods between the years 1550 and 1700, we have seen the descendants of this hero of Agincourt (who lived like a wolf and died like a lion,) in possession of every acre of ground in the county of Brecon; at the commencement of the eighteenth century we find one of them common bellman of the town of Brecknock, and before the conclusion, two others supported by the inhabitants of the parish where they resided, and even the name of Games in the legitimate line extinct.<sup>1</sup>

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,  
And all that beauty, all that wealth e're gave,  
Await alike th' inevitable hour:  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

OWEN GLYNDWR.

"Owen ap Griffith fychan, commonly called Owen Glyndwr, was a gentleman of North Wales, liberally educated at the English Inns of Court and intended for the bar, but he afterwards quitted the study of the law and had an appointment in the household of Richard the Second. Walsingham says, he was scutifer or esquire of the body to that king; and Carte asserts, that he was actually attendant upon the royal person when he was seized and made prisoner at Flint Castle. Henry had no kindness for Owen, on account of the fidelity and friendship he bore to Richard, and Owen was as much dissatisfied with the usurper, for the traitorous, though successful designs he had formed

<sup>1</sup> Of this we have since had some reasons to entertain doubts, though the tradition of the family is against the legitimacy of that branch who now bear the name.



and executed, as well as the wrongs he had done to his late royal master. Owen's estate, which was considerable, lay contiguous to the demesne of Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin, who in the true spirit of a marcher, made several very unwarrantable encroachments upon Owen's property, who sought for redress in the king's courts of law, but without success. Henry, upon his expedition to Scotland, summoned all the military tenants of the crown to attend him; one of the writs for this purpose was delivered to Reginald, who maliciously detained it until the day before the general rendezvous at Newcastle, so that it was impossible Owen could obey it. This was evidently done with a design to subject him to the forfeiture of his lands, but without waiting for any legal process of confiscation, he himself most unjustly and by force of arms, seized upon part of the possessions of Owen, depending upon his interest at court to sanction these violent measures. Sensible that he had little to expect from the royal clemency, and despairing of justice in any other way, Owen had recourse to the sword, and returning force for force, obtained possession of his estate.

#### GLYNDWR ASSUMES THE TITLE OF PRINCE OF WALES.

"Upon the king's return from Scotland, the lord Grey complained to him of the injury he had received, and the sovereign without entering into the merits of the dispute (to avoid the tedious and puzzling mode adopted by lawyers, of hearing both sides of the question), instantly gave him a commission, in which Lord Talbot was included, to assemble troops and apprehend Owen as a traitor and a rebel; and so suddenly did they come upon him, that it was with difficulty he escaped into the mountains. Finding that his enemy was thus protected while he was prescribed, Owen now resolved upon an extremity which he at first little thought of; he threw off his allegiance to the English crown and boldly assumed the style and character of prince of Wales (A.D. 1400). To his countrymen he urged his maternal descent from Llewelyn ap Griffith, who was defeated and slain near Builth, though in fact he was descended only from a younger brother of the house of Powis; the very name however of a British prince was sufficient to rouse the spirit of the Welsh. Numbers crowded to his standard, and he became daily more formidable; thus supported, he showed no mercy to his enemies—burning and laying waste the property of all those who adhered to the cause of Henry.

#### ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE GLYNDWR.

"It is remarkable that Owen met with the greatest opposition from his own first cousin Hywel Sele of Nannau, who was a zealous favourer of the house of Lancaster. Of his vengeance for an iniquitous attempt of this relation, Mr. Pennant gives the following account, 'I have been informed that the abbot of Cwmmer near Dolgelli, in hopes of reconciling them, brought them together, and to all appearance effected his charitable design. While they were walking out, Owen observed a doe feeding, and told Hywel who was reckoned the best archer of his days, that there was a fine mark for him. Hywel bent his bow, and pretending to aim at the doe, suddenly turned and discharged the arrow full at the breast of Glyndwr, who fortunately had armour beneath his clothes, and so received no hurt. Enraged at this treachery, he seized on Sele, burnt his house and hurried him away from the place, nor could anyone learn how he was disposed of; till forty years after, the skeleton of a large man was discovered in the hollow of a great oak, in which Owen was supposed to have immured him in reward for his perfidy. The ruins of the old house are to be seen in Nannau park, a mere compost of cinders and ashes.'

#### TRAITOROUS CONDUCT OF DAVID GAM.

"The next exertion of Owen's assumed power, was the summoning a parliament at Machynlleth in Montgomeryshire, and here he was successful beyond his most sanguine expectations. Numbers of the Welsh nobility and gentry were obedient to his call, and pledged their lives and fortune to support his cause, and here among the rest came David Gam,<sup>1</sup> but he came not as the friend of his country, or even from motives of curiosity; he approached the court of one with whom it does not appear that at this time he had any personal quarrel, armed with the poigniard of an assassin. In a word it is strongly suspected he was employed by Henry to murder Owen: the plot however by timely discovery was rendered ineffectual, and the foul agent of it taken into custody, when he certainly would have suffered an ignominious death, but for the intercession of some of Owen's best friends in his behalf. He was still however detained in prison at Machynlleth, although he was sometime afterwards released (as the Welsh historians say) upon his parole of honour and

<sup>1</sup> Carto, and upon his authority Pennant, erroneously call David Gam the brother in law of Glyndwr, and state him to have married one of Owen's sisters. The fact is, that David married Gwenllian, the daughter of Gwylm ap Hywel graeh, and Morfudd the sister of Glyndwr was married to David ap

Ednyfed Gam, a nobleman of North Wales, of the house of Tudor Trevor; a similarity of names and an ignorance of the pedigree occasioned the mistake, Gam is crooked but when applied to the person means any defect in the eyes or limbs.



engaging not to serve against Glyndwr in his present contest with England: yet notwithstanding this undertaking, upon his return to Brecknock he broke his faith and recommenced a formidable opposition, persecuting with the greatest rancour all who were attached to Owen. It was probably at his instigation or that of his friends, that the country people destroyed the castle of Dinas, then belonging to Edmond Mortimer, who compelled by the impolitic conduct of Henry, who neglected to ransom him, had joined the faction of Glyndwr. Leland notes, that 'the people about Dinas did burn Dinas castel, that oene Glindour should not kepe it for his fouteres' (favourers).

#### ENGLISHMEN APPOINTED GOVERNORS OF WELSH CASTLES.

"The unexampled successes of Owen's forces and supporters, thus strengthened by the aid of the house of Mortimer, and afterwards of the gallant Hotspur, made Henry tremble on his throne. All the castles in Wales and the Marches were forthwith strongly fortified, and Englishmen of approved fidelity appointed governors. Brecknock was entrusted to Sir Thomas Berkley with a power of demanding assistance from the sheriffs of six adjoining counties, should necessity require it; Llandovery to John Touchet lord Audley, Laugharne to Sir Henry le Scrope, Crickhowell (A.D. 1403) to John Pauncefoot, Tretower to Sir James Berkley, Abergavenny and Harold's Ewyas to Sir William Beuchamp, Goodrich to Sir Thomas Neville of Furnivale, Eardisley to Sir Nicholas Montgomery, Caerleon and Usk to Sir Edward Charlton of Powis, Caerphili and Ewyas Lacy to Constance dowager lady Despenser, Manerbier to Sir John Cornwall, Payncastle and Royll (Elvel or Colwyn) to Thomas earl of Warwick, Huntingdon to Anne countess of Stafford, Lionshall and Dorston to Sir Walter Fitzwalter, Stapleton to John Brian baron of Burford, Brampton to Brian de Brampton and the castle of Snowdon to Sir John Chandos.<sup>1</sup> Every precaution was also taken to render these fortresses secure. Proclamations of pardon were soon afterwards issued out with a commission to Sir John Oldcastle knight, John ap Henry and John Fairford clerk (vicar of Llanvillo, and prebendary of Garthbrenghy in Breconshire), to extend the royal clemency to all such rebels within the lordships of Brecknock, Cantreff-Selyff, Hay, Glynbwch and Dinas, as should immediately return to their allegiance, and deliver up their arms offensive and defensive; the king at the same time reserving to himself the right of disposal of their estates and properties. This instrument is dated at Devynnock, September 15, 1403, and is subscribed 'per ipsum regem,' as is a pardon granted the day before, dated at Hereford, to the rebels of Abergavenny and others, so that it should seem Henry himself was in Breconshire in September 1403.

"In the year following, John Touchet, lord Audley, was associated with Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick and lord of Abergavenny, in defence of the castle, town and lordship of Brecknock for one whole year, having one hundred men at arms, and three hundred archers on horseback, assigned them for that purpose, with an allowance of *twelve-pence* a day for each man at arms, and to each archer *six-pence*.

#### OWEN'S VICTORIES, AND DEFEAT IN BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

"All these preparartions served only to shew the very formidable height to which Owen had arrived in the English court, and raised his character still higher in the opinion of his countrymen; still he repeated his incursions into South Wales, and terror and desolation everywhere accompanied his steps. In Gwentland it is true he met with a repulse, but he soon recovered his temporary check and suddenly rallying his men, he overtook the English army at Craig y Dorth in Monmouthshire, where he gained a complete victory, and pursued them to the very gates of Monmouth. From hence he proceeded forward, burning and destroying all before him: towns, villages, castles and forts fell indiscriminately sacrifices to his fury. Among others the castle of Abergavenny and the town and castle of Caerdiff were destroyed, excepting only a street in the latter, in which the monastery of Franciscan friars was situated,—a religious body supposed to have been favourable to the cause of Owen. He afterwards sent his eldest son Griffith with an army into Brecknockshire, where after an obstinate engagement at Mynidd y Pwll Melin (a hill now not known by that name, but supposed to be in the hundred of Crickhowel), he was defeated, and as some say, taken prisoner by the Prince of Wales, with the loss of fifteen hundred men. Among the dead bodies on the field, was one which resembled Owen so strongly, that it was currently reported he was slain; but upon more minute inquiry, it was found to be his brother Tydyr or Tudor, who was so extremely like him in features, that they might easily be mistaken for each other, excepting that Owen had a little wart above one of his eyebrows, which the other had not. The report of the discomfiture and death of their leader disheartened the Welsh, and numbers, particularly in Glamorganshire, threw themselves upon the

<sup>1</sup> It should seem that Sir John Chandos afterwards was appointed governor, or had the custody of Penkelley castle in Breconshire, for it appears by the bishop of St. David's register,

now at Abergwili, that in 1406 Richard Andrew clerk was presented or nominated to officiate in the free chapel (St. Leonard's) within the castle of Penkelley, by Sir John Chandos, Knight.



mercy of the king, but Owen, though weakened, was not conquered. For some years longer did he continue his exertions and set Henry at defiance, but the future operations of the war, though interesting, are irrelevant here; it is however worthy of observation that in the midst of these tumults, and while death stalked in a thousand shapes around him, the palace of Glyndwr was the seat of festivity and harmony. The martial spirit, the Awen or British muse, at this period, once more revived to celebrate the heroic enterprizes of her darling chieftain. Like himself, the bards of his time were irregular and wild, and as the taper glimmering in the socket gives a sudden blaze before it is extinguished, so did they produce a few scintillations of genius, which brought down to that age the recollection of the splendour of the former bards, and then sunk into ever-during darkness upon the fall of their patron and their friend. But though poetry flourished, learning certainly suffered from the boisterousness of the times, for such was the unrelenting and indiscriminate fury of the English, as well as the Welsh, that monasteries and their libraries containing many very valuable manuscripts were destroyed: a loss, the more to be lamented, as it can never be repaired. Henry began this unmanly and mischievous species of warfare,<sup>1</sup> and Owen did not hesitate to follow his example when an opportunity occurred, and neither side bestowed a thought upon the injury they were doing to posterity by the destruction of those documents, which as men of learning (for both had claim to that character), it should have been their study to preserve.

## ESTIMATE OF OWEN'S CHARACTER.

"It has been said of Owen as it was of Hannibal, that if he had known how to use victory as well as to obtain it, he would effectually have checked the power of an encroaching foe, and probably have restored to Wales her ancient independence; he was undoubtedly brave, and fitted for command, but the errors of the Carthaginian were the errors of Owen. Thus, as Hannibal lost sight of the advantages of victory, when he loitered at Cannæ, so Glyndwr, if he could not join Percy before the battle of Shrewsbury (as Mr. Pennant suggests), certainly wanted policy in not attacking the troops of Henry immediately after that engagement, and by this neglect ultimately sealed the ruin of his cause; and as the luxuries of Capua enervated the troops of Carthage, so did the plunder which the Welsh acquired, render them rich and factious, and Owen after a stand for several years against the whole power of England, at length found himself forsaken by his friends, and compelled to retire to the mountains for safety. Even here he might have made terms with Henry; indeed, Stowe says, he was actually pardoned at the intercession of David Holbetcher,<sup>2</sup> Esq, but he disdained submission, and determined to die as he had lived, *free*.

## OWEN'S DEATH AND SUPPOSED BURIAL PLACE.

"After wandering about for a time from place to place unnoticed and unknown, he took up his last refuge at Monnington, or as some say Kentchurch, where in the arms of filial piety he found protection, and died September 20, 1415, aged sixty-one.

"The place of this chieftain's interment has been a matter of doubt and inquiry among historians. Carte says, it was in the churchyard at Monnington, and the following extract from a MS. in the British Museum makes it probable; it at least infers a local tradition of the circumstances: 'About the year 1680, the church of Monnington was rebuilt, in the churchyard of which stood the trunk of a sycamore, in height about nine feet, and two and a half in diameter, which being in the workmen's way was cut down: a foot below the surface of the ground was laid a large grave-stone without any inscription; on its being removed there was discovered at the bottom of a well stoned grave, the body (as it is supposed) of Owen Glyndwr, which was whole and entire and of a goodly stature, but there was no appearance of any remains of a coffin; where any part of it was touched, it fell to powder. After it had been exposed for two days the stone was again placed over it and the earth was cast upon it.'

## GRANT BY HENRY IV. TO BRECKNOCK.

"In the third year of Henry the Fourth he granted to the burgesses of Brecon<sup>3</sup> and the inhabitants, an exemption from tolls, murage,<sup>4</sup> piccage and pannage, during pleasure, and in the

<sup>1</sup> In 1400, Henry plundered the convent of Franciscans at Llanvaes, in Anglesea, and carried away the monks prisoners, under pretence that they supported Glyndwr.

<sup>2</sup> David Holbetcher, sed recte Holbwrch, was made a denizen or free citizen of England, in the eighth of Henry the Fourth, Cotton's *Records by Prynne*, p. 458. The ancestor of the tribe of Holbwrch was named Llwarth Holbwrch: they were a Denbighshire family: it is remarkable that the eldest branch differ-

ing form the general custom of the Welsh, preserved their surname, while the descendants of the younger children assumed many years afterwards the names of Llwyd and Hughes.

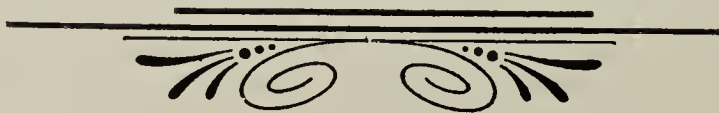
<sup>3</sup> Records in the Tower of London, 3 Hen, 4, pt. 1, m. 21.

<sup>4</sup> Muragium, a tax or payment towards repairing the walls of a castle or fortified town. Piccagium, a payment for leave to dig holes in a pitching of a market town, to place the supporters of stalls or standings. Pannage has been before explained.



thirteenth year of his reign,<sup>1</sup> by a general inspeximus of all former charters, he renewed and confirmed to the monks of Brecknock all those grants which the munificence and piety of former benefactors had conferred upon them; in the following year he granted to the burgesses of Brecon the first royal charter they had ever enjoyed. The attachment of Sir David Gam and his adherents to his person and family, and the possession of the lordship in right of his wife, account for this partiality to the inhabitants of Brecknock; to the remainder of the principality he was a cruel and merciless tyrant. His son Henry the Fifth, by charter, dated May 12, 1415, renewed and confirmed all the ancient privileges of the burgesses of Brecknock; in addition to their ancient fair upon St. Leonard's day he granted them the privileges of holding two more fairs for eight days before and eight days after the nativity and decollation of St. John the Baptist annually."

<sup>1</sup> Records in the Tower, 13 H. 4, p. 1, m 5.





## CHAPTER VII.

General History Concluded. From the Accession of the Lordship of Brecknock by the Stafford Family, to the year 1800.

“UPON the death of Johanno countess dowager of Hereford, Anne the widow of Edmond earl of Stafford, who was slain in the battle of Shrewsbury, and daughter of Thomas Plantagenet late duke of Gloucester, demanded of the king a division of her late grandmother's estate; upon which Henry generously gave up to her and her son the earldoms of Buckingham, Essex, Hereford and Northampton, the lordship of Brecknock and patronage of Llanthony, reserving to himself in his mother's right, only the constableness and some estates in England appendant to it. Some difficulties afterwards however occurred in making the partition, which produced a petition from the countess Anne, stating, that ‘the feoffees of Humphrey Bohun conveyed certain lands to Johan de Bohun,<sup>1</sup> formerly countess of Hereford, of the annual value of one hundred pounds, to hold to the said countess for life, and after her death to Mary and Alianor, daughters and heirs of the said earl in fee, that Mary died, and the reversion came to Alianor, from whom it descended to the petitioner; that her deeds relating to the said estate were in the hands of John Leventhorp, council for the Duchy of Lancaster, who would not deliver them without an order from the king's council; that a partition was made in the reign of the late king Henry the Fifth, between him as son and heir of Mary before mentioned, and the petitioner, of all lands belonging to the said Humphrey Bohun, and that in this partition the castle and manor of Brecknock were assigned to the petitioner as part of her share, of which castle and manor the seigniories of Brenles, Langoit and Canterceli in Wales were parcel. But because doubts had arisen whether they were or were not parcel of the same, and no mention was made of them, specifically in such partition, and they were said to be seigniories in gross, she prayed for the love of God, and as it would *be a work of mercy*, that a writ might issue under the king's great or privy seal, to levy the rents, issues and profits of the said lands, as might be thought most advisable to her and her council.’

### LADY STAFFORD DISFRANCHES BRECKNOCK.

“To which the parliament answered, ‘let this petition and our answer being first enrolled in the rolls of parliament, be sent to the king's council, and let the lords of the same council there present have power to determine thereon, and to make such partition, and generally to execute, do and ordain therein, as may be necessary, according to their discretions.’<sup>2</sup> Upon this petition it was adjudged in the seventh of Henry the Sixth, that the lordships therein mentioned, and the ville of Bronllys were not parcel of the manor of Brecon, and in the thirty-ninth year of the same reign,<sup>3</sup> the forestership of the forest of Cantercelly, then belonging to the crown, with the office of seneschal and receiver there, as well as of the lordships of Penkelly, Alysanderstone, and Llangote were granted to Robert (or rather Roger) Vaughan of Porthaml, Esq., in whose descendant<sup>4</sup> from a female, part of Cantercelly now continues, although the whole of it was afterwards granted to Henry duke of Buckingham<sup>5</sup> and the heirs male of his body, upon whose attainder it became revested in the crown. This lady Stafford married for her second husband William Bourchier earl of Eu: no sooner was she possessed of Brecknock than she showed her authority, in disfranchising the borough, annulling the acts even of her royal predecessors in their favour, and revoking all grants, charters, privileges and immunities whatsoever given them by her noble ancestors, and so kept them during the remainder of her life. By her last will she desired to be buried at Llanthony, near Gloucester, to which she bequeathed one hundred marks in money, or the value thereof, out of such of her moveable goods as should seem best in the discretion of her executors: she died in 1439.

### THE STAFFORD FAMILY.

“The family of Stafford, originally of Norman extraction, was anciently called Toni, and related to William the Conqueror. ‘Le Sire de Tony’ appears in the Norman chronicle, quoted by Stowe.

<sup>1</sup> Parl. Rolls, H. 6.

<sup>2</sup> Records in the Tower. 7 H. 6, p. 1, m. 3 and 4.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 39 H. 6, m. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Lord Ashburnham.

<sup>5</sup> Records in the Tower. 17 E. 4, p. 2, m. 14.



The first who assumed the name of Stafford was Robert, governor of Stafford castle in the time of the Conqueror. The male issue failing after three generations, the heiress married one Bagot, of an ancient family whose son assumed the mother's name, which was then usual when the mother's rank was superior to the father's: this son's name was Harvey de Stafford. Dugdale calls him *lord*, though it does not appear that as yet any of the family had been honoured with the peerage. Edmond de Stafford was created baron Stafford of Stafford castle by king Edward the First. Ralph lord Stafford, was seneschal of Aquitain, repulsed John, son of the French king, before Aquilon, and shared the honour of the victory at Cressy; he was also employed in several embassies, installed a knight of the garter in the reign of Edward the Third, signalized his valour in reducing the Irish rebels, and was created Earl of Stafford in 1350.

"Our first lord of the name of Stafford was created Duke of Buckingham by King Henry the Sixth, in the twenty-third year of his reign, when a whimsical dispute arose about precedence between him and Henry Beauchamp, created at the same time Duke of Warwick, which was as whimsically determined by an act of parliament,<sup>1</sup> ordaining that they should take precedence one, one year, and the other, the next year, and that their posterity should have precedence according as who should first have livery of their lands. Luckily the Duke of Warwick died without issue, whereupon Humphrey, to prevent the agitation of so important a question in future, obtained a grant upon the twenty-second of May, in the twenty-fifth of Henry the Sixth, (A.D. 1447) unto himself and his heirs for precedence above all dukes whatsoever, whether in England or France, excepting only such as were of the blood royal; he was afterwards made constable of Dover and Queenborough castles, and warden of the Cinque Ports, and in the thirty-eighth year of the same reign, in consideration of his great and eminent services to Henry, he had another grant from him of all those fines which Walter Devereux of Weobley, in the county of Hereford, esquire, William Hastings of Kirby, in the county of Leicester, esquire, and Walter Hopton of——, in the county of Salop, esquire, were to make to the king for their transgressions.

#### ANCIENT BURGESSES OF BRECON.

"This Duke of Buckingham, upon his elevation to the title declined his paternal arms, or at least postponed and placed them in the last quartering of the field, bearing first, Woodstock, or England and France, with a label; secondly Buhun earl of Hereford; thirdly Bohun earl of Northampton, and fourthly Stafford, which arms were afterwards borne by his descendants, dukes of that name. He restored to the burgesses of Brecon all those privileges of which his mother had deprived them, confirming them by a new charter dated at Makestock, April 26th, 21st of Henry the Sixth (A.D. 1448). A copy of his inspeximus of all the ancient charters of the borough is preserved among the MS. collections of Mr. Hugh Thomas in the Bodleian library at Oxford, and is likewise upon record among the archives of the borough. The marked partiality which then prevailed in favour of Englishmen to the exclusion of the ancient Britons, will appear strongly from a perusal of the following list of burgesses named in this new charter: John Cole, Richard Myle, Llewelyn Burghull, Thomas Goldsmyth, Thomas Hunt, Phillip Gerald, Edmond Pycard, David Davowe, William Bennett, William Gerald, John Huggin, *Benedict Wynter*, John Burghull clerk, Thomas Fitzdavid, Richard Gerald, John Brady, Walter Scull, Thomas Baker, John Sherbury, William More, John Havard senior, John Peeke, Howel Oistres, John Byrre, Llewelyn Fitzjohn, the sons of Llewelyn Draper, John Burghull, esq., John Havard junior, Lewis Fitzhowel, John Burghill Fourber, Edmund Porter, John Radynor, Richard Baker, Myles Wanter, William Skulle, John Hunt, Myles Wanter Salser, John Matthew, John James, John Slyngarth, John Porter, John Gerald, Myles Porter, Roger Porter, John Powle, John Gaggowe, Walter Huggin, Hugh Dilwyn, John Baker, Roger Huggyn, John Botte, Griffin Hayledyke, Walter Fitztrahearn, Thomas Mortimer, John Glover, John Kewe, Thomas Oliver, William Shethe, John Smith, Phillip Oliver, Sampson Paynott, Matthew Porter, John Paynott, Agnes Wanter, Cecilia Gunter, Margaret Bennett, John *Pierrepoint* senior, John Pierrepoint junior, Agnes Baker, John Mulsander, John Dyer, and Mahel Drencher, '*whom we esteem to be English people, to them and their heirs being English, both upon the part of their father and mother.*'<sup>2</sup> The town was governed by this charter until the ninth of King Henry the Eighth.

<sup>1</sup> This business might have been settled with infinitely less trouble, by the toss of a halfpenny.

<sup>2</sup> His grace was mistaken if he thought so; some of these persons were Welsh, not only by their parents, but they were also descended from the old inhabitants of Breconshire, several of the names are clearly disguised, Thomas Fitz David, John Byrre, Lewis Fitzhowel, and Walter Fitztrahearn, for Thomas

ap David, Sion bir or the short, Lewis ap Hywel and Gwalter ap Trahaern, and some of them we suspect are translations of their trades into English, as John Baker for Sion bobydd, or the baker; John Dyer for Sion llyw-wr, or the dyer, etc. The Duke's intentions however are evident, yet how their children and descendants thereafter to be born in Wales could be *English* both by father and mother is not so clear.





TRETOWER IN 1805

*(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).*







“To the Welsh tenants and *resiants* within the honour, this Duke of Buckingham was an implacable tyrant, for he burdened them with very heavy taxes and unusual impositions; his bailiffs distrained the cattle of the farmers upon every trivial occasion, using the greatest severity in the exercise of their power, and commonly appraising and selling their property at low rates, to answer the exacted debts. The freeholders who lived within the lordships were called upon to exhibit the title deeds of their estates, or otherwise to submit to the arbitrary disposition of their lord, and many were thus ruined through the mere terror or unequal litigation, but still even in these worst of times, some few were found who had sufficient fortitude to resist oppression. Among these were Thomas ap Jenkin Madoc of Llanfrynach, the ancestor of the late family of Thomas of Slwch, and Evan ap Phillip Howel of the same; both of whom refused to pay either homage or custom for their land, or to acknowledge any other lord than the king of England. Evan, upon refusal, was arrested at the duke's suit, and imprisoned in the gaol of Gloucester, where he remained three years before he obtained even a trial; at length his cause was heard, and he cast his noble adversary; thereby establishing the manorial rights of his estate, and exempting it from all homage, suit and service and the payment of any taxes, except to the crown.

## BUILDING OF VELINFACH MILL.

“During his confinement, his wife built a mill upon his estate, called Velin Vach, which is now surrounded by a few houses called Velindre, or Milton: but the Duke of Buckingham, though a bad master, was a good subject; during the multitude of troubles which weighed down the virtuous though imbecile Henry the Sixth, he was the warmest friend and supporter of that persecuted monarch. In the first battle with the Yorkists at St. Alban's he lost his son and was himself wounded, and finally at Northampton, where the king was made a prisoner (10th of July, 1460), he fell a sacrifice to the exertions of his loyalty, and was buried, as some historians say, in the Gray Friars at Northampton. He died possessed of the castles, manors and dominions of Brecknock and Huntingdon, of the manor of *Jonesfield*, or *Johnsfield*, now called *Chancefield*, the dominion of Talgarth, and also the lordship of Welsh Penkelly.

## THE DUKES OF BUCKINGHAM.

“In the early part of this reign died Edmund the last Mortimer earl of March. He was possessed of the cantred of Bualt, with its castle, the lordship of Melenydd Radnor, Tal-y-van forest, the castle and lordship of Clifford, the lordship of Glazbury, the borough and lordship of Ewyas Lacy, the castle, lordship and forest of Dinas, the castle, lordship and borough of Blânllfni, and the castle, lordship and borough of Usk, all of which now devolved to Richard Earl of Cambridge, who had married his sister Anne, upon whose attainder, upon his being implicated in Jack Cade's insurrection, these possessions again became vested in the Crown. The last Earl of March, a short time before his death, granted an annuity of one hundred pounds per annum to Sir John Talbot, who was of his household, chargeable upon his lordships of Dinas, Talgarth, Blânllfni, and other estates in Brecknock.

“Henry the son of Humphrey earl of Stafford (who was slain in the first battle of St. Alban's), by Mary his wife, daughter and coheir to Edmund duke of Somerset, succeeded his grandfather as duke of Buckingham, and to all his other honours and titles, but being a minor and a ward of government, he was with his brother Humphrey put under the care of Anne duchess of Exeter, the king's sister, who had an assignment of five hundred marks per annum for their maintenance, charged upon the lordships of Brecknock, Newport, Wentllwch or Gwentllwg, Hay and Huntingdon. During this minority, the stewardship of the castle and lordship of Brecknock, and of all other castles in Wales belonging to the late duke of Buckingham, was given to Sir William Herbert, the first earl of Pembroke of that name, who during the reign of Edward the Fourth had a grant of the lordships of Crickhowel and Tretower, which upon the marriage of his grand-daughter Elizabeth with Charles earl of Worcester became the property of that family, and afterwards of the dukes of Beaufort, with whom they continue. Henry, upon his coming of age and doing homage, had livery of his honours and estates. During the greater part of the reign of Edward the Fourth, he lived in retirement within his native walls of Brecknock. Stowe says, that immediately upon the death of this monarch, he offered his services to Richard duke of Gloucester, and suggested to him the plan of his future greatness; for which purpose he sent to him a confidential servant of the name of Pershall, to communicate a proposal of his assistance, accompanied with one thousand *good fellows* of his dependents, if the duke of Gloucester wished it. What answer was given to this



message does not appear, probably affairs were not then sufficiently ripe for placing Richard on the throne, though the two friends never afterwards lost sight of the project.

#### CHARACTER OF RICHARD DUKE OF GLOUCESTER.

“Upon the trial of George duke of Clarence, the duke of Buckingham presided as lord high steward, and soon after the decease of Edward, he became conspicuous on the stage of public life, zealously supporting the pretensions of Gloucester to the crown. The lamentable uncertainty which overshadows the transactions of these times, marked only by furious dissensions and party violence, when no contemporary historian existed, or at least dared to write impartially upon the subject, leaves posterity greatly in the dark as to the real character of persons and the events of this period. The life of King Edward the Fifth, has indeed been elegantly and diffusely written by Sir Thomas More, who also began but never finished the history of his successor. That Sir Thomas had every opportunity of inquiring and making himself thoroughly acquainted with every circumstance he describes, cannot be doubted, and we naturally look for accuracy to one who may almost be considered as an eye-witness of the events, for though he was too young to preserve the actual remembrance, he must necessarily have heard them talk over it in his youth, with all the various comments of the day, and we may readily suppose that he made his own reflections upon the subject. Upon his authority then, most of our later writers have described and expatiated upon the cruelties of Richard; hence we have been accustomed to regard him as an odious unrelenting tyrant, equally deformed in body and in mind. That he was bloody, violent and ambitious, we have too many reasons to induce us to believe, but still there is room to suspect much exaggeration, when we recollect that his biographer was the pupil of Morton and the favourite of Henry. ‘Audi alteram partem,’ though it often creates difficulties and raises doubts, is yet upon the whole a very reasonable requisition, and more especially in this case, as there are not wanting those who have appreciated him very differently. ‘His memory (says Dr. Fuller) has met with a modern pen, who has not only purged but praised it to the very height’: he has indeed met with a very strenuous advocate in Mr. Buck. Zealous for the house of York and for the honour of that monarch, in whose cause his grandsire lost his head, he has professedly undertaken the defence of Richard, and even where he cannot excuse, he labours to extenuate his guilt. Mr. Carte equally disbelieves the account of his bodily deformity, and the charges of inordinate cruelty brought against him, and the ingenious author of ‘historic doubts’ on that reign strongly supports the arguments of Mr. Buck, insinuating that many of the crimes imputed to that prince, are to be charged to the malevolence and rancour of the Lancastrian party, rather than to any real demerit of his own, but none of his apologists can deny that he deposed his nephew, and that he was not over scrupulous as to the means by which it was effected, though they are unwilling to admit the charge of his having murdered one or both of the sons of Edward. The duke of Buckingham appears to have been his confidential agent and chief adviser in all his measures; a congeniality of temper first recommended them to each other, and it is to be feared that many a bloody scene was the result of the coalition. Rivers, Hastings, Grey and Vaughan all fell a sacrifice without a trial, and without justice; who can apologize for these murders? Carte will answer that the lord of Brecknock was the instigator and promoter of them; but will this acquit the principal of his share of the guilt?

#### DISAFFECTION OF BUCKINGHAM.

“In reward for his unworthy, though effectual services, Buckingham not only received large sums of money, but was invested with several lucrative and honourable employments; he was constituted governor of all the king’s castles in Wales, and steward of all the royal manors in the counties of Salop and Hereford, chief justice and chamberlain of North and South Wales, and lord high constable of England. He was also further promised a restitution of all those lands which belonged to the Bohuns earls of Hereford, and to which as next in blood, he claimed an hereditary right, though by an act of parliament passed soon after the deposition of the late King Henry they were vested in the Crown. Thus royally endowed Buckingham would have been the richest as well as the most powerful nobleman in England, but in truth, not so willed Richard. ‘It all was farce and nothing more.’ That wary politician too well knew the principles of his coadjutor not to see the necessity of restraining him in time; he knew Buckingham to be haughty, violent and avaricious, a great dissembler, and of consummate art, that he was at heart a Lancastrian, and consequently an inveterate enemy to the succession in the house of York, which interested motives alone had induced him to support, and though from similar motives he himself had been induced to accept of his services, it was very far from his intention to raise him to the condition of a rival. Having therefore now attained the high object of his ambition, and fully secured, as he thought, the reins of government, he threw off his mask, and treated his hitherto fast friend and supporter with superciliousness.



“The Duke ill brooking the ingratitude of a man whom at the expense of all that was good and honourable, and perhaps the sacrifice of his own peace of mind, he had thus greatly served, instantly turned all his thoughts to vengeance, and became as eager to dethrone as he had been studious to exalt him: thus resolved he withdrew in deep discontent from court, and shut himself up in his castle of Brecknock, where remote from public observation, he indulged his busy thoughts in projects to effect his purpose, a fit instrument for which he discovered in a prisoner whom Richard in the plenitude of his confidence had committed to his charge. This prisoner was no other than the well known John Morton Bishop of Ely, an able and artful politician, originally a zealous Lancastrian, but afterwards (having been pardoned) an equally strenuous adherent of the family of Edward, and consequently an object of suspicion to the jealous Richard, who thought him too dangerous a man to be entrusted to the care of an ordinary gaoler.

## BISHOP MORTON PRISONER AT BRECKNOCK CASTLE.

“Stowe<sup>1</sup> as well as Speed has preserved at considerable length the conversation which passed between the duke and the bishop in the castle of Brecon on this occasion. The former says, Morton soon perceived that Buckingham, ‘though he began to praise and boast the king, and showed how much profit the realme should take by his raigne,’ yet at heart entertained an inveterate animosity against him, and was prepared for any measure that might be proposed to humble him, but in order to be satisfied beyond all doubts as to the duke’s real sentiments on the subject, he very artfully observed that it would be folly in him to dissemble, for that he was certain, neither his grace or the nation would believe him, if he affected a friendship for Richard. ‘I could have wished (added he) King Henry’s son, and not King Edward had the crown, but after that God had ordered that he should lose it, I was never so mad as to strive with a dead man against a quicke, so I became King Edward’s faithful chaplain, and glad should I have been had his child succeeded him, but if the secret judgment of God hath otherwise provided, I purpose not to contend or labour to set up him whom God pulleth down, and as for the late protector and now king———But I have said too much, I will no longer intermeddle with the affairs of this world, but retire to my books and my beads.’

“This abrupt conclusion stimulated the duke’s curiosity so much, that he encouraged the bishop to proceed; he told him he need not fear the discovery of his sentiments, that whatever he said (he might confide in him) should be concealed if he chose it, that he wished for his advice and counsel, which he said was the only reason why he applied to the king to place him under his custody, where he might reckon himself at home. The prelate ‘right humblie,’ thanked his grace and proceeded, ‘In good faith my lord I love not to talk much about princes as a thing not at all out of peril, even though my words may be innocent because they may not be taken as I mean them, but as the prince chuses to construe them; I often think of that fable of Æsop, in which the lion is said to have caused a proclamation to be made that no horned beast should remain in a certain wood upon pain of death, upon which one of his subjects that had a bunch of flesh upon his forehead fled from thence as fast as he could, but being met by a fox who asked him whither so fast, the affrighted animal answered he neither knew or cared, and immediately informed him of the proclamation, but you fool, says the fox, yours is not a horn, you have nothing like a horn on your head; that I very well know replied the other, but if the lion insist upon it it is a horn, where am I then? The duke laughed at this tale and said, ‘My lord I warrant you neither the lion or the *boar* shall pick out any matter out of any thing here spoken, for it shall never come to their ears.’ ‘In good faith (replied the bishop) the thing I was about to say, taken well (as afore God I mean it), would deserve thanks, but being misunderstood might produce me little good and you less.’ Here he paused again, the duke desired him to proceed. ‘Well then (says Morton) as for the late protector, since he is king and in possession of the crown, I do not mean to dispute his title, but for the welfare of the nation, over whom he governs, of which I am a poor and humble member, I could have wished that to those abilities which he certainly possesses, and which are far above my praise, it had pleased God to have added those which peculiarly distinguish your

<sup>1</sup> It will be unnecessary to apologise for the long extract from Stowe which has been slightly passed over by modern historians, it develops most clearly the character of the parties, and to the inhabitants of Brecon, to whom *Ely Tower* is a familiar object, it becomes for that and other reasons more peculiarly interesting; the conversation as related is extremely plausible, and only one difficulty remains which is to account for the channel by which this information is conveyed to us. It may indeed be said that the bishop of Ely minuted down the substance of the conference, but he would hardly have preserved some of the sentiments here detailed, certainly not the words in which they are recorded, and unfortunately neither of the chronicles mentioned condescend to give us their authority. It must however be observed that both of them lived not long after the time when the conversation is supposed to have passed.



grace,' and here he again broke off abruptly, but being encouraged to go on and speak out the whole of his mind, with an assurance that whatever he said should be kept as secret as if related to the deaf and dumb, with a hint that the duke perceived his prisoner was meditating some project in his favour, Morton was prevailed upon *apparently* to disclose the whole of his designs, especially as he knew that the duke was 'desirous to be magnified,' and he saw clearly that at heart he entertained an inveterate hatred to Richard, he therefore (as the chronicle says) 'opened his stomach from the bottom,' at the same time mixing a little more flattery to sweeten the dose, and proceeded; 'My singular good lord, sith the time of my captivitie which being in your Grace's custody, I may rather call it a libertie than a straight imprisonment, in avoyding of idleness the mother of all vices, in reading books and ancient pamphlets I have found this sentence written; that no man is born free and at libertie of himself onely: for one part of his duty he oweth to his parents, another part to his friends and kinsfolks, but the native country in which he first tasted this pleasant and flattering world demandeth a debt not to be forgotten; which saying causeth me to consider in what case this realme, my native country now standeth, and in what estate and assurance before this time it hath continued, what governour wee now have and what ruler *wee might have*, for I plainly perceive (the realme being in this case) must needs decay and be brought to confusion; but one hope I have, that is, when I consider your noble personage, your justice and indifference, your fervent zeal and ardent love towards your natural country, and in like manner the love of your country towards you, the great learning, pregnant wit and eloquence which so much doth abound in your person, I must needs think this realme fortunate which hath such a prince in store, meete and apt to bee governour, but on the other side when I call to memorie the good qualities of the late protector and now called king, so violated by tyranny, so altered by usurped authoritie, so clouded by blind ambition, I must needs say he is neither meete to be king of so noble a realme nor so famous a realme meet to be governed by such a tyrant; was not his first enterprize to obtaine the crown begun by the murther of divers noble personages? Did he not secondly procede against his own naturall mother declaring her openly to be a woman given to carnale affection and dissolute living, declaring furthermore his two brethren and two nephews to be bastards and born in adultery? Yet not contented after he had obtained the garland, he caused the two poor innocents his nephewes committed to him to be shamefully murdered; the blood of which two little babies do daily cry to God from the earth for vengeance: what surety shall be in this realme to any person for life or goods under such a cruell prince which regardeth not the destruction of his owne bloode and then the less the losse of others? But now to conclude what I mean toward your noble person, I say and affirme it if you love God, your linage or your native countrey, you must yourself take upon you the crowne of this realme both for the maintenance of the honour of the same, as also for the deliverance of our naturall countrymen from the bondage of such a tyrant, and if yourselfe will refuse to take upon you the crowne of this realme I adjure you by the faith that you owe to God to devise some way how this realme may be brought to some convenient regiment under some good governour.'

## THE PLOT AT ELY TOWER.

"The duke sighed, and here the conversation ended on this day; on the morrow however he sent for the bishop, who had now discovered so much of his sentiments that in return, Buckingham thought he might venture to disclose his own, but if the prelate was artful in his mode of sounding his keeper's private opinions, it must be allowed the duke was equally a master of dissimulation, and laboured hard to excuse or apologize for the part he had acted on the political theatre. He begins with complimenting his prisoner on his abilities, and his love for his country, and adds: 'Sith at your last communication you have disclosed the secrets of your heart, touching *the new usurper* of the crown, and also have a little touched the advancement of the two houses of York and Lancaster, I shall likewise declare to you my privy intents and secret cogitations and to beginne: when King Edward was deceased I then began to study and with deliberation to ponder in what manner this realme should be governed; I persuaded with myself to take part with the duke of Gloucester, whome I thought to be as clean without dissimulation, as tractable without injury, and so by my means hee was made protector both of the king and realme, which authority being once gotten hee never ceased privily to require me and other lords as well spirituall as temporall that he might take upon him the crowne till the prince came to the age of four and twenty, and were able to governe the realme as a sufficient king, which thinge when hee saw mee somewhat sticke at, he then brought in instruments autenticke doctors, proctors and notaries of the law with depositions of divers witnesses testifying King Edward's children to be bastards, which deposition then I thought to be as true as now I know them to be fained. When the said depositions were before us read



and diligently explained hee stood up bare headed, saying, Well<sup>1</sup> my lords even as I and you would that my nephewes should have no wrong, doe mee nothing but right; for these witnesses and sayings of famous doctors be true, for I am the only indubitable heyre to Richard Plantagenet duke of York, adjudged to be the very heyre to the crowne of this realme by authoritie of parliament. Which things so by learned men to us for verity declared, caused mee and others to take him for our lawfull and undoubted prince and sovereigne lord, and so again by my ayd he of a protector was made a king, but when he was once crowned king and in full possession of the realme he cast away his old conditions; for when I myself sued to him for my part of the earl of Hereford's lands, which his brother king Edward wrongfully detained from mee, and also required to have the office of the high constablership of England as divers of my noble ancestors before this time have had and in long descent continued, in this my first suit he did not onely delay mee and afterwards deny<sup>2</sup> mee but gave mee such unkinde words as though I had never furthered him; all this I suffered patiently, but when I was informed of the death of the two young innocents, Oh Lord! my heart inwardly grudged, insomuch that I abhorred the sight of him; I took my leave of the court and returned to Brecknock, but in my journey as I returned I had divers imaginations how to deprive this unnaturall uncle. First I fantasied that if I list to take upon me the crowne, now was the way made plain and occasion given, for I saw he was disdained of the lords temporall and accursed of the lords spirituall; after divers cogitations as I rode between Worcester and Bridgenorth,<sup>3</sup> I encountered the comtesse of Richmond (now wife to the lord Stanley), which is the very daughter and sole heyre to John duke of Somerset, my grandfather's elder brother so that shee and her sonne the earl of Richmond bee both between me to enter into the gate of majesty royall and getting of the crowne; I then began to dispute with myself whether I were best to take it upon mee by the election of the nobilitie and communaltie or to take it by power: thus standing in a wavering ambiguity, I considered first the office duty and paine of a king which surely I think no mortall man can justly and truly observe, except hee be appointed by God as King David was, and further I remember that if I once took on mee the governance of the realme, the daughters of King Edward and their allies (being both for his sake much beloved) and also for the great injurie done to them much pittied would never cease to bark at the one side of me; Sembably my cousin, the Earl of Richmond, his aydes and kinsfolks will surely attempt either to bite or pierce mee on the other side, so that my life and rule should ever hang unquiet in doubt of death or deposition, and if the said two linages of York and Lancaster should joyne in one against mee, then were I surely matched. Wherefore I have clearly determined utterly to relinquish all imaginations con-

<sup>1</sup> This account given by the duke of Buckingham is directly contradictory to that recorded by historians; according to all or most of those who have written upon the transactions of this day, the bastardy of Edward's children, though privately concerted between Richard and Buckingham, was first mentioned in public by the latter, and Richard so far from claiming the crown, as above asserted (according to a plan settled by himself and his friends) affected to refuse it, and it was not till after Buckingham had threatened to place some other person on the throne, that, as related by Shakspeare, he complied and thus addressed the patriotic duke, and his followers.

"Cousin of Buckingham and sage grave men!  
Since you will buckle fortune on my back,  
To bear her burden whether I will or no;  
I must have patience to endure the load,  
But if black scandal or foul faced reproach  
Attend the sequel of your imposition,  
Your mero *inforcement* shall acquit me  
From all the impure blots and stains thereof,  
For God he knows and you may partly see  
How far I am from the desire of this."

R. III, Act 3, Scene 7.

<sup>2</sup> This is agreeably to Shakspeare's description of the rupture between those two bad men.

Buckingham: "My lord, I claim my gift, my due by promise,  
For which your honour and your faith is pawned,  
The Earldom of Hereford. ———"

King Richard: Stanley look to your wife. ———

Buck.: I am thus bold to put your grace in mind  
Of what you promised me.

K. Rich.: What's o'clock  
I am not in the giving vein to-day.

Buck.: Why then resolve me whether you will or no?

K. Rich.: Thou troublest me, I am not in the vein

[Exit Richard.]

Buck.: Is it even so! repays he my deep service  
With such contempt? made I him king for this?  
Oh let me think on Hastings, and be gone  
To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on.

R. III, Act 4, Scene 2.

Some *historians* also attribute the breach between him and Richard, to Richard's refusal to restore him a moiety of the Bohun estate, and if Shakspeare be correct, this was the cause that drove him to Brecknock, and not the shock which his feelings received on hearing of the two poor innocents; on the other hand it is clear that a bill of livery was made to him of the lands of the late Humphrey de Bohun and a grant of the constablership of England (Dugd. Bar. vol. 1, p. 168). Yet it is by no means improbable that delays were invented and obstacles thrown in the way of his taking possession of this property; so that he was never able to avail himself of these instruments, nor perhaps was it intended he should be benefited by them. The first of them is dated the 13th day of July, 1483, and it appears by a proclamation in Rymer's *Fœdera*, tom. 12, p. 204, that he was executed before the 23rd of October, in the same year. Buck hints that one cause of offence given to Richard by the duke was, the *right* by which he claimed the Bohun honours. "The Earldom of Hereford, says the king, was the inheritance of Henry the Fourth, who was also King of England, (though by tort and usurpation), and will you, my lord of Buckingham, claim to be heir of Henry the Fourth? You may then haply assume his spirits and lay claim to the crown by the same title." Buck's life of R. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Buckingham had possessions in Shropshire, otherwise he deviated from his direct road to Brecon in going to Bridgenorth from Worcester, perhaps however, he met the countess of Richmond by appointment, in that county.



cerning the obtaining of the crowne; for as I told you the comtesse of Richmond on my return from the *new named king*, meeting mee prayed me first for kindred sake, secondly for the love I bare to my grandfather duke Humphrey, which was sworn brother to her father to move the king to be good to her sonne Henry earle of Richmond, and to licence him with his favour to return again into England, and if it were his pleasure so to doe, shee promised her sonne should marry one of king Edward's daughters at the appointment of the king without any thing demanded for the said espousalls but only the king's favour, which request I soon overpassed and departed. But after in my lodging I called to my memory more of that matter, I am bent that the earl of Richmond heyre to the house of Lancaster, shall take to wife the Lady Elizabeth eldest daughter to King Edward, by which marriage both the houses of York and Lancaster may be united in one.<sup>1</sup> This was precisely what the bishop was driving at, all this time, though at first he was cautious of discovering his intentions; after several further consultations therefore, it was determined that the countess of Richmond should be made acquainted with their design, of raising her son to the throne which was principally effected by the agency of Reginald de Bray, one of her domestics, and doctor Lewis a physician who attended her as well as the queen dowager, and whose visits for that reason passed without suspicio.

## MORTON ESCAPES INTO FLANDERS.

"Morton having accomplished this important point, took his leave of Buckingham, and much against his grace's inclination, found the means of escaping into Flanders, where he justly conceived his presence would be more serviceable to the cause than his stay in England. Now, it was that the report of the young princes having been murdered in the tower was industriously published and circulated by the agents and partizans of Buckingham, though the rumour had been propagated (as has been just seen) before he quitted the court, of such a foul transaction having happened. The friends of Richard say this falschood was spread abroad merely to answer the purposes of the faction, who could have no pretence of setting Richmond upon the throne while either of the children of Edward was living, and therefore to answer the double purpose of calumniating the present king, and paving the way for his successor, they charged him with the atrocious crime of having procured the assassination of his nephews; certain it is, that we have nothing like decisive evidence of the fact either way. The Croyland continuator gives a kind of hint, that some foul play befell them, though he by no means asserts it positively,<sup>2</sup> '*vulgatum est regis Edwardi pueros quo genere interitus ignoratur, decessisse in fata.*' Polydore Virgil (though no great degree of credit is attached to his authority as an historian) mentions another report, that the princes had escaped and were alive in foreign parts '*In vulgus fama valuit, filios Edwardi Regis aliqua terrarum parte migrasse atque ita superstites esse.*' Others again assert that they were actually stifled between two feather beds, by Tyrrel, Dighton and Forest, (whom Speed calls 'big broad square knaves') and rest their evidence on a supposed confession of Sir James Tyrrel, who was said to have been also a principal in the business. Tyrrel was certainly a favourite with Richard, who entrusted him with several offices of honour and emolument: he was made steward of the lordships of Llandovery, Llantrissant, Newport and Gwentllwg, and governor of Glamorganshire.

## PERKIN WARBECK'S DECLARATION.

"As to his confession we can scarcely believe it possible that he made it during the life of his patron, and if he did it afterwards, it is very extraordinary, as Carte pertinently observes, that Henry should not only have pardoned, but even patronized a self convicted murderer; for he made him governor of Guisnes and sent him ambassador to the Emperor Maximilian. In the declaration of Perkin Warbeck, he is particularly noticed as being in the confidence of Henry, and though he was afterwards executed upon suspicion of high treason, as implicated in the affair of the Earl of Suffolk, yet as Mr. Carte says, this did not happen until after an interval of ten years, and his son was almost immediately restored in blood by a special act of parliament, passed upon the requisition of Henry. Dighton is also said to have confessed a participation in the guilt, yet it does not appear that he was either punished or prosecuted: these are circumstances which plainly show that Henry, though he countenanced these reports unfavourable to the memory of his predecessor, was afraid to institute such a strict inquiry as must have brought truth to light; indeed we have every reason to believe that he himself did not give credit to this tale. That Richard has much to answer for there can be no doubt, and the time will assuredly come, when he will be truly judged at the great tribunal of eternity, and rewarded according to his work; until that awful and solemn day, let no man decidedly condemn him as the perpetrator of this iniquitous and foul transaction. Carte closes

<sup>1</sup> All the substance and much of the quaintness of the conversation is here preserved; but the whole of it as related by the chroniclers is tedious. <sup>2</sup> Gale's *Hist. Angl. Scrip.* v. 1, p. 568.



his arguments with a comparative eulogium on the character of Richard, and an assertion of his belief, that Perkin Warbeck was the real duke of York. To this opinion we beg leave to add a firm, though perhaps insignificant assent; there are so many circumstances in support of it, exclusive of those mentioned in Walpole's *Historic Doubts*, that we are astonished the world should have been so generally misled upon this question.

"The evidence of Sir Robert Clifford who was sent over to the duchess of Burgundy, and who wrote back that he was satisfied that the person afterwards called Perkin Warbeck was the duke of York, as he was of his existence, that he knew him by private marks on his person, and from anecdotes related by him of circumstances which passed in the English court during his infancy, the behaviour of Henry and his partizans, who first spread a report (a report which in spite of its absurdity, has been countenanced and propagated by some of our ablest and latest historians) that the duchess of Burgundy had informed him of these private events,—of *events which passed after she had quitted England!*—though we learn that when Perkin Warbeck was taken prisoner, the king and his advisers made the young man declare that he was schooled and taught English by a John Walter, mayor of Cork;<sup>1</sup> the conduct of the victor who treated him as a cat does a captive mouse, parading him up and down twice or thrice through the streets of London, while he peeped at him through a window, at the same time that he never ventured a personal interview with him, or dared to confront him with his mother or sister, both then living and at court, all these and many other circumstances which could be mentioned, are strong proofs in confirmation of Carte's judgment. The finding of human bones in 1673 in the Tower of London, in that place where neither Henry the Seventh (who was so anxious at one time to discover them, nor those who were said to have deposited them were successful in their search, though this circumstance hastily considered established the report of the murder), proves too much, unless it be admitted, as Hume very oddly insinuates, that in the Tower no boys but those who are nearly related to the crown can be exposed to a violent death!

## SIR ROGER VAUGHAN RAISES AN ARMY.

"To return to the conspiracy of Buckingham. Morton having departed to confer with Richmond on the continent, and planned the means of a descent on England, the duke exerted all his energy to raise an insurrection at home, and by the assistance of Reginald Bray had so far succeeded that a day was actually fixed for a general rising in several of the English counties. Richard was too vigilant to be ignorant of what was going on; he saw a conspiracy was formed against him, and he spared no pains to make himself acquainted with the persons of the conspirators in order to divide and counteract their force. It was immediately obvious that Buckingham was at the head of it, and he, too late, lamented the extensive powers he had intrusted to him in the Marches, but the escape of Morton, whose deep laid policy he dreaded, afforded him still more uneasiness.

Morton with Richmond touches me more near,  
Than Buckingham and his rash levied numbers.—*Rich. 3rd.*

"The duke was still at Brecknock, and as no overt act of treason, or at least of violence had been yet committed, the king in the most pressing manner invited his return to court, and to intreaties, added the warmest expressions of regard; finding he could not entrap him by fair means he in peremptory terms commanded his attendance, which were equally disregarded. In the meantime spies were everywhere set to watch his motions, Directions were sent to Sir Thomas Vaughan, son of the late Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower (whose influence in the neighbourhood was considerable), to raise the country and attack his castle, the moment he stirred from Brecknock, holding out as an allurement, the riches it contained. Sir Thomas, with the assistance of his brothers and relations, executed his commission with great spirit, and kept a strict look out in the interior of the country, while Sir Humphrey Stafford was equally alert in destroying the bridges and occupying the passes on the side of England. The duke however having mustered his dependents, and published a flaming declaration against Richard, proceeded with a numerous but disaffected and ill appointed army to join his Western friends at Salisbury, taking the route of Gloucester; but having reached the banks of the Severn, a most tremendous flood had rendered the river impassable and laid a fatal embargo upon his further progress. Thus delayed, his troops became dissatisfied for want of pay and the conveniences of living, and deserted in such numbers that he was left nearly alone. The Croyland

<sup>1</sup> Lord Verulam in his *History of Henry the Seventh*, speaking of the confession of Perkin Warbeck, observes "he was diligently examined, and after his confession taken, an extract was made of such parts of them as were thought fit to be divulged, which was printed and dispersed abroad; wherein the king did himself no right: for as there was a laboured tale of particulars of Perkin's father, mother, grandsire, grandmother, uncles and

cousins by names and surnames, and from what places he travelled up and down, so there was little or nothing to purpose concerning his designs, or any practices that had been held with him nor the duchess of Burgundy herself (that all the world did take knowledge of as the person that had put life and being into the whole business) so much as named or pointed at."



continuator, and upon his authority Carte, say, that he now retired with a few confidential friends to the house of Sir Walter Devereux, lord Ferrers, at Weobley; but how is this to be reconciled to the steady adherence of that nobleman to the cause of Richard, under whose banners he fought and fell in the battle of Bosworth? Can it be supposed for a moment that the duke could have retired for protection to that very house which his grandfather had plundered by royal permission in the reign of Henry the Sixth, in consequence of his attachment to the house of York? The above historians however assert this, and add that the Bishop of Ely was of the party, yet for the reasons already given, as well as the general concurrence of historians, we conceive there can be no doubt that the fact was otherwise, and that his last retreat was to the house of one Bannister, who had formerly been his servant and now resided in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury. Here he thought he might remain secure till he could either join his English friends, or make his escape to Richmond on the continent; but a royal proclamation soon shook the fidelity of his host, whose avarice could not withstand the temptation of a thousand pounds offered by Richard for the apprehension of Buckingham. To secure, as he hoped, the money, he betrayed his master; betrayed that master whose former kindness had supported him and enriched his family. For this base action he received his deserts, though he failed of his reward; when he applied to Richard, he refused to pay him, telling him that he who could be unfaithful to so good a master, would be a traitor to his king if an opportunity offered.<sup>1</sup> Stowe adds, that soon after this event, his eldest son became insane and died in a pigstye, his daughter was stricken with a leprosy, his second son lost the use of his limbs, his youngest son was drowned in a puddle, and Humphrey the father was convicted in his old age of murder, and only saved by his being a literate person and claiming the benefit of clergy. At what age these sons died is not mentioned, but they or one of them probably left descendants, who continued in Brecknock in tolerable repute till the middle of the eighteenth century; for in the Cappel y cochiaid, in the Priory Church there is a tombstone to the memory of Thomas Bannister, who died in 1737, and who is said to have married Rebecca, daughter of John Crusoe, apothecary and grand-daughter of Dr. John Crusoe, theretofore chancellor of St. David's.

#### EXECUTION OF THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

"The Duke having been arrested by John Mytton, high sheriff for the county of Salop (A.D. 1483), was first conveyed to Shrewsbury, and from thence under a strong guard to Salisbury, where the king then was; he solicited an interview with his majesty, with an intention as it is said of stabbing him, but being refused, he was immediately taken out to the market place, and there executed without a trial. His titles were attainted and his estates confiscated. Thus fell the once powerful and ambitious Buckingham, and if the proud Great can be taught any lesson, they may learn from this upon how weak and tottering a foundation their much prized grandeur stands.

Almost he touch'd the highest point of greatness!  
And from that full meridian of glory,  
He hasted to his setting;—And he fell  
Like some bright exhalation in the evening,  
And no man saw him more!

"He left by his wife Catherine, daughter of Richard Widville earl of Rivers, three sons and two daughters, Edward who afterwards was restored to his honours, Henry created earl of Wiltshire, and Humphrey who died young; Elizabeth, his eldest daughter, married Robert Radcliffe earl of Sussex, and Anne who married first Sir Walter Herbert, and secondly George earl of Huntingdon. Sir James Tyrrel was appointed a commissioner for his forfeited estates in Wales, and Sir Ralph Ashton, vice-constable, with a power to try either by the examination of witnesses *or otherwise*, to pass sentence, and to execute on the spot *without noise, form of trial or appeal, all persons suspected and guilty of high treason* or who were concerned in this insurrection: allowing him the full exercise of his discretion whenever he chose to act under this authority, and only requiring him on such occasions to take with him a secretary to make minutes of his proceedings.<sup>2</sup>

#### THE DUKE'S ESTATES RESTORED TO HIS SON.

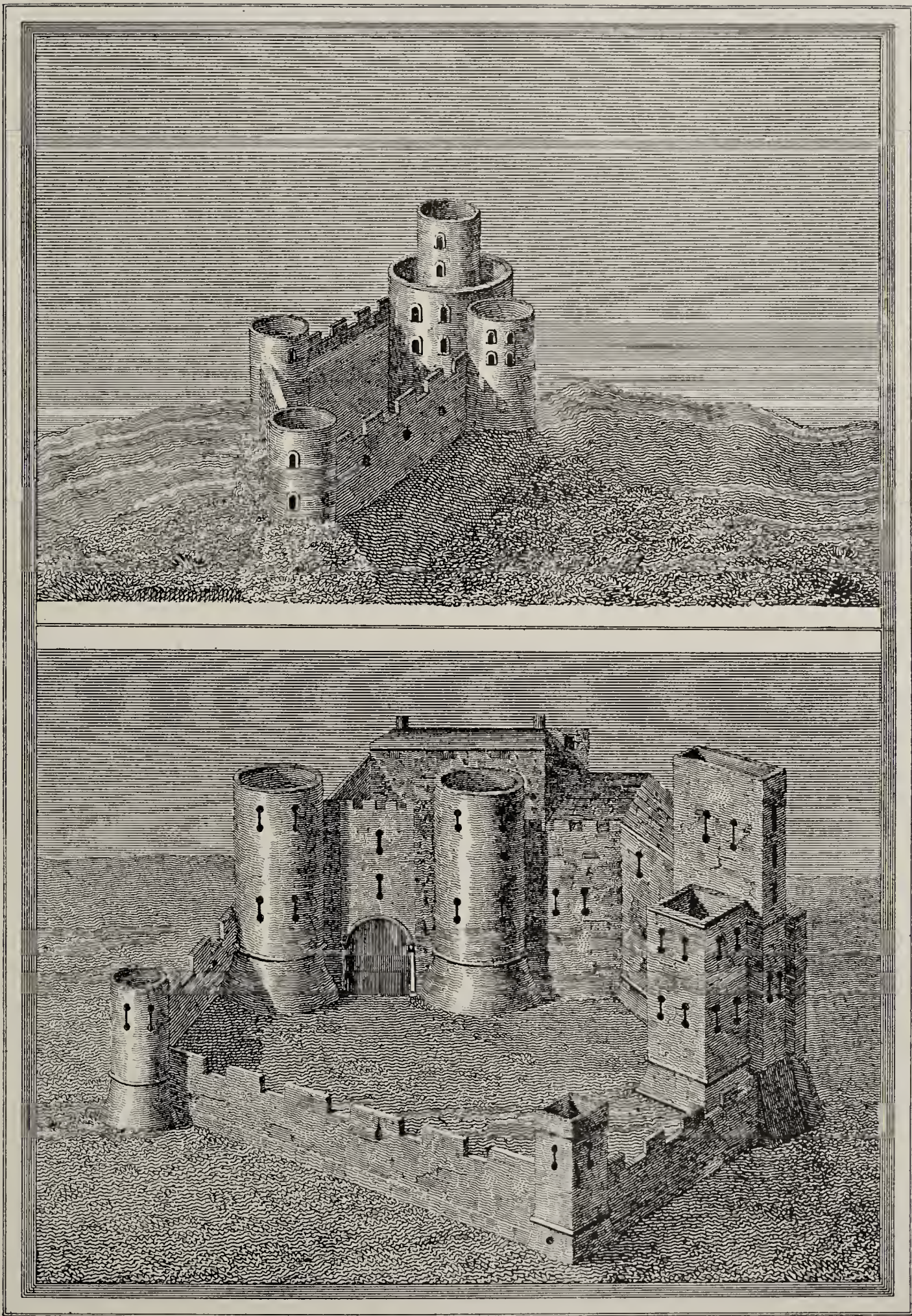
"Soon after the establishment of Henry the Seventh upon the throne (A.D. 1485), Edward the

<sup>1</sup> This is the account of the treatment Bannister received from Richard, according to most historians, and Buck among others; but in a note to the life of Richard, by this latter author, it is said that Ralph (not Humphrey) Bannister who betrayed the duke, was rewarded for this service by a grant of the manor of Ealding in Kent, part of his unfortunate master's property, which grant is in part recited in this note, and the reader for its authenticity referred to K. R's. journ.

<sup>2</sup> If there were no other evidences remaining of Richard's tyranny than this bloody inquisitorial commission, it would be

sufficient to consign his memory to perpetual infamy; unprecedented as are the words, and unlimited as is the power intrusted by this document, its authenticity is unquestionable. Buck, to conceal in part the iniquity of his hero in granting powers so extraordinary, says, the vice-constable was impowered to proceed against the rebels, "*omni strepitu et futura judicii appellatione quacunque remota.*"—The commission as given by Rymer in the *Fœdera*, vol. 12, p. 205 has, "*sine strepitu et figura judicii appellatione quacunque remota.*"





1. TRETOWER CASTLE

2. CRICKHOWELL CASTLE

*(Both from a Survey in the beginning of the 16th Century).*







eldest son of the late Duke of Buckingham was restored to blood, his titles and estates, and upon the death of Edward Stanley earl of Derby in 1504, who in the first year of this king was created, or rather confirmed constable of England for life, the duke was appointed to this office, though the grant does not appear in the *Fœdera*, as all those of his predecessors do, yet there can be no doubt but that he held this office in the latter end of Henry the Seventh and in the beginning of Henry the Eighth's reign; for Sir Robert Cotton in a paper in Hearne's *Curious Discourses*, tells us, that over his castle gate at Thornbury was the following inscription, 'This gate was begun 1511, and Anno regis Henrici octavi 2. by me Edward duke of Buckingham, earle of Hereford, Stafford and Northampton, high constable of England.' This office however expired with him, for after his death no person was ever appointed to it, and it is now scarcely known but to antiquarians.

"Though the confiscations of his father's property were immense and of course a very tempting bait to the avaricious Henry, yet his services had been so beneficial to this monarch's cause, and indeed, inasmuch as they had principally and primarily produced his elevation, gratitude prompted the restoration of everything to the son. In the last year of this reign he obtained a grant from the crown of the castle and ville of Bronllys, the manors and lordships of Bronllys, Cantreff selyff, Penkelley and Alexanderstone, with the third part of the barony of Penkelley, and the advowsons of all the churches belonging thereto. He confirmed by charter the franchises of the borough of Brecknock and considerably improved the castle, though his principal residence was at Thornbury in Gloucestershire, where by license from King Henry the Seventh, he had imparked one thousand acres of land, and began to build a stately edifice, which the shortness of his life prevented him from finishing. The distinguishing features of Edward duke of Buckingham were family pride and ostentation; he *felt* himself a duke, and indulged a high sense of rank and of his own consequence.

He deem'd plebeians, with patrician blood  
Compared, the creatures of a lower species;  
Mere menial hands by nature meant to serve him.

#### HENRY DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM, AND WOLSEY.

"It is said he was weak enough to have confidence in judicial astrology and divination. Upon all occasions of public show, the utmost magnificence of expence was exhibited in his dress, and he was studious of appearing unrivalled in elegance. Upon the celebration of Prince Arthur's nuptials with the lady Catherine of Spain, he appeared at Court in a robe of needlework upon cloth of tissue, and trimmed with sable, valued at the enormous sum of fifteen hundred pounds, and in honour of Prince Henry's accession to the throne, he rode to the Tower in a gown of goldsmith's work, 'a thing (says Stowe) of great riches;' but alas! this high patrician pride soon undid him, and brought him to the grave in early life, or at least in the prime of manhood, and the plebeian Wolsey triumphed over the noble Buckingham: some unguarded expressions uttered by the duke at first excited the cardinal's disgust, and a trivial circumstance converted the quarrel into deadly animosity. It seems that the duke having held the bason to the king, while he was washing his hands, the cardinal came and dipped his hands also in the water; this, 'though a trifle light as air,' so offended the high spirit of Buckingham, that in contempt he threw the whole contents into his eminency's shoes. The equally haughty prelate retired in a rage, vowing 'that he would shortly sit upon his skirts'; to make a jest of this threat, his grace appeared the next day in public without any skirts to his coat, jocularly observing that he did it by way of precaution.

#### THE DUKE ACCUSED OF HIGH TREASON.

"Trifling as all this may seem, it sealed the duke's destruction; so dangerous are ill timed jokes, 'sæpius hæ nugæ in seria ducunt.' This nobleman being descended in the female line from Thomas of Woodstock, conceived himself by birth to be nearly allied to royalty. He is said to have declared his intention of claiming the crown, if the king died without issue, and in that case his resolution to be revenged upon Wolsey for his insolence; being also, as before observed, infected with the absurd notions of magic and judicial astrology, he was weak enough to be led away by one Hopkins a monk of Henton, who pretended to inspiration, and flattered him with the hope of one day ascending the throne of England. The pride of family and perhaps the fond idea of seeing these wild predictions realized, led him into certain indiscretions, which being reported to Wolsey, were thought sufficient grounds for an impeachment; the Cardinal therefore having upon various pretences removed his friends out of the way, and secured the mercenary evidence of a discarded servant of the name of Knevett, boldly accused the duke of high treason. The King extremely jealous of all who had any pretensions to the crown, and fully aware of the ambitious character of Buckingham, was easily induced to credit the assertion, nor could the most solemn assertions of innocence avail him; for so deeply was the plot laid, that he was tried by his peers, found guilty, and condemned



(A.D. 1521). The Duke of Norfolk, with a flood of tears, pronounced the fatal order for execution, to which the noble prisoner submitted with a manly resolution, disdaining to sue for mercy, or ask a life of which he conceived they were unjustly about to deprive him; though he is said to have hinted that a free unsolicited pardon, if the king would grant it, would not be unacceptable. Shakespeare makes him thus pathetically address the audience at his execution:

When I came hither I was lord high constable  
And Duke of Buckingham;—now poor Edward *Bohun*.<sup>1</sup>  
Yet I am better than my base accusers,  
Who never knew what truth meant: I now seal it;  
My noble father Henry duke of Buckingham  
Who first raised head against usurping Richard,  
Flying for succour to his servant Bannister,  
Being distress'd, was by that wretch betray'd,  
And without trial fell: God's peace be with him!  
Henry the Seventh succeeding, truly pitying  
My father's loss, like a most royal prince  
Restor'd me to my honours, and out of ruin  
Made my name once more noble. Now his son  
Henry the Eighth, life, honour, name and all,  
That made me happy, at one stroke has taken  
For ever from the world. I had my trial,  
And must needs say a noble one,—which makes me  
A little happier than my wretched father.  
Yet thus far we are in one fortune; both  
Fell by our servants,——by those men we loved most.  
A most unnatural and faithless service!  
Heaven has an end in all: yet you that hear me,  
This from a dying man receive for certain:  
Where you are liberal in loves and counsels  
Be sure you be not loose; those you make friends  
And give your hearts to, when they once perceive  
The least rub in your fortunes, fall away  
Like water from you,—never found again  
But where they mean to sink you. All good people  
Pray for me.——I must leave you—the last hour  
Of my long weary life is come upon me,  
Farewell! and when you would say something sad,  
Speak how I fell. I have done; and God forgive me.

“When the Emperor Maximilian heard of this execution he severely remarked, ‘that a butcher’s dog had ran down the finest buck in England,’ alluding to Wolsey being the son of a butcher; but if we take Dr. Henry’s character of this duke, he was a desperate and dangerous man, who had formed the most pernicious schemes, and was capable of the most atrocious actions, and neither the king or the cardinal could be blamed for bringing him to trial, and permitting the sentence to be executed.

“The dukedom of Buckingham now became extinct. He left by his wife Alianor, daughter of Henry Percy earl of Northumberland, one son and three daughters; Elizabeth the eldest married Thomas Howard duke of Norfolk, Catherine married Ralph Neville earl of Westmoreland, and Mary married George Neville lord Abergavenny, Henry (his son) was afterwards by an act of parliament restored in blood, and to the barony of Stafford only. Upon the death of Henry (the fifth baron of that name) without issue, the title of baron and baroness of Stafford was conferred in the reign of Charles the Second, on Sir William Howard knight of the Bath, and Mary Stafford, his wife, only sister of the last peer of that name, and the heirs male of their bodies, but they likewise, dying without children, the title became extinct. The last duke of Buckingham and lord of Brecknock, of whose life we have given the fullest account we have been able to collect, was executed May 17, 1521, and was buried at the church of Austin Friars in London.<sup>2</sup>

#### ANCIENT MANORS.

“The great lordship of Brecknock with the borough, castles, manors, and dependencies now merged in the crown, but the burgesses of Brecknock were permitted to retain their ancient franchises, upon payment of their accustomed fee farm rent of one hundred and twenty pounds a year. A list of the manors in Herefordshire dependent on the castle of Brecon, and owing suit and service to the court of Baili-glâs formerly held there, will be seen in the appendix No. XI. A further and more particular survey, made in the thirteenth of Henry the Eighth, containing the whole of the possessions of the lords of the castle and manor of Brecon will appear in another part of this

<sup>1</sup> Stephenson in one of his notes observes that Shakespeare was led into the mistake of the then family name of the duke of Buckingham, by Holinshed. Tollet however says the duke affected to take the name, as his ancestors did the arms, of Bohun, and we are inclined to think he is correct.

<sup>2</sup> The pedigree of this nobleman and his predecessors, lords of Brecon, will be seen in the appendix, No. X.



work. From this document it appears that the manorial rights and lands held by the last Duke of Buckingham, in this county and neighbourhood were of the annual value of £806 : 15 : 0½, to which every third year was added an increased rent of £506 13s. 4d. We are indebted to Sir Charles Morgan, bart., for permission to copy this valuable MS. which has been preserved in the evidence room at Tredegar."

## ACCESSION OF HENRY VIII.

King Henry VIII. ascended the throne 1509. Descended from Owen Tudor, a Welsh gentleman, and having thus in his veins Celtic blood, he did more than any previous monarch to promote the welfare of his ancestral country. He united Wales to England, and destroyed the power of the Lords Marchers; divided South Wales into counties, and established a form of justice which survived into the 19th century. He fostered the education of the people, establishing at Brecon that Collegiate establishment which has proved of such advantage to the Principality. In much of this he was ably advised by Sir John Price of the Priory, Brecon, a member of the Council of the Court of Marchers, established in the reign of King Edward IV. to curtail the power of the Lords Marchers. King Henry VIII., undoubtedly a great statesman, saw the advantages which would accrue from destroying a power which touched upon the Royal prerogative, and was a chief cause of the lawlessness then existing in Wales.

## ABOLISHES THE LORDS MARCHERS.

After the execution of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, the Lordships of the Marches had for the most part fallen to the Crown. The time seemed appropriate for reforming laws and justice in Wales: "Albeit the principalltie of Wales hath been incorporated under the imperial crown, wherefore the Kinges moost Roiall Majestie of mere droite is verie Hedde King Lord and Ruler, yet notwithstanding because that in the same contrey dyvers lawes be farre discrepant from the lawes of this realme, and also because that the people of the same dominion do daily use a speche nothing like, ne consonant to the natural mother tonge used within this realme, some ignorant people have made distinccon between the Kinges subjects of this realme and his subjects of the said principalltie of Wales whereby great discorde has growen between the said subjects, His Highnes therefore hath enacted that his said countrey of Wales shall be united to his realme of Englande."

## FORMATION OF COUNTIES.

The English laws of inheritance were extended to Wales. The Act then proceeds—"And forasmoche as there be dyvers lordshippes marchers within the said countrey of Wales, lieng between the shires of Englande and the shires of the said countrey of Wales.....and forasmoche as many of the said lordshippes marchers be now in possession of our soveraigne Lorde the Kinge and the smallest nombre of them in the possession of other lordes; be it enacted that dyvers of the said lordshippes marchers shall be united to the shires of Wales, and that all the residue of the said lordshippes marchers shall be divided into certayne p'ticular counties or shires, that is to say the countie or shire of Monimouth, the countie or shire of Brekenoke, the countie of shire of Radnor, the countie or shire of Montgomerie, the countie or shire of Denbigh."

The Act then defines the county of Monmouth, in which the King's subjects are to be obedient to the Lord Chancellor of England. It then proceeds:—"The lordshippes townes parishes commotes and cantredes of Brekenoke, Crickhowell, Tretowre, Pencelly, Englishe Talgarth, Welshe Talgarth, Dynas, The Haye, Glynebogh [Glasbury], Broynlles, Cantercelly, Lando, Blayn Uynby, Estrodewe [Cwmdu], Buelthe, and Langors.....shall be accepted as members of the said countie or shire of Brekenok; and the town of Brekenok shall be reputed hede and shere towne of the said countie or shere of Brekenock."

The other counties are then dealt with in a similar way; and it is then enacted that the business of courts shall be transacted in English, and concludes—"For all Parliamantes to be holden for this realme one Knight shal be chosen for every of the shires of Brekenoke.....and for every other shire within the said countrey of Wales."

Thus Brecknock became a county. Its boundaries were not fixed with regard to local government, still less to modern requirements, but they represent a mass of ancient manors more or less connected with each other from very early times.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONS.

A few years later (1542), a further enactment settled by commission the boundaries of hundreds, permitted the stewards of manors to hold court leets, appointed justices of the "peaxe," also "oone custos rotulorum in every of the twelve shyres." "Twoo of the justices at the least were to keepe theyre sessions foure times in the yere," and at other times upon urgent causes.



Up to the time of the Reformation there were no schools in Wales. Whatever education the Welsh received they must have obtained within the walls of the monasteries at the hands of the monks. With the Tudor dynasty a change for the better took place, and the University of Oxford was entered by many natives of the Principality. Sir John Price of the Priory, of whose exertions on behalf of his country notice has already been taken, was educated there, but in Wales itself there were no schools.

#### HENRY ESTABLISHES A COLLEGE AT BRECON.

The College of Christ of Brecknock was founded by Henry VIII. by Royal Charter, bearing date January 19, in the 33rd year of his reign (1542). It states that his Majesty's subjects in the southern parts of Wales were unable by reason of their poverty to educate their sons, and by reason of their ignorance of the English language were unable to understand the laws which they were bound to obey, and that Christ College was intended to comprise a grammar school and divinity lectureship for providing instruction in letters and divinity. His Majesty then established a grammar school and provided gratuitous instruction. And by his Charter the priory of the Preaching Friars at Brecknock, with all property belonging to it at its dissolution, were given by his Majesty to the Bishop of St. David's, with power to transfer the officers of the existing college at Abergwili to the College of Christ at Brecon, to which the property of the College at Abergwili was also granted. After the Charter, the College at Abergwili was duly transferred to Brecknock, at which town it has carried on the work of education until the present time. But it will be more convenient to deal with the history of this important foundation when we come to the parochial history of the county.

#### WILLIAMS ANCESTOR OF OLIVER CROMWELL.

About this period we have translations of works into Welsh. Sir John Price, LL.D., was the son of Rhys ap Gwilym Gwyn, a gentleman of high standing in Brecknock. Having taken his degree at Oxford, he was called to the Bar, and soon attracted the notice of the King. He married Joan, niece of Morgan Williams of Whitchurch, an ancestor of Oliver Cromwell. At the dissolution of the monasteries he was appointed a Commissioner for their suppression, the field of his labour being the county of Brecknock. He translated into Welsh the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed, and published them in 1546, this, so far as is known, being the first book printed in the Welsh language.

#### SURVEY OF ECCLESIASTICAL PROPERTY.

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of King Henry VIII. is a survey and estimate of the whole ecclesiastical property in England and Wales in the state in which it stood on the eve of the Reformation—the accumulation of many centuries which had preceded since first the British Church was endowed. During a long series of years the usurpations of the Church of Rome on the ancient freedom and property of the British Church had been advancing till they had reached a height which may justly be called enormous. Some small contribution might not unreasonably be demanded from every part of Christendom by that power which was supposed to be ever consulting the common benefit of Christianity, and which did actually administer the affairs of the great Christian confederacy, but the contributions had grown excessive, and there was much vexation in consequence of the demands. Resistance to their encroachments had been made from time to time by the Sovereign and prelates. At length the cord was cut which bound the British Church to that of Rome, and in the time of Henry VIII. the Church of Rome was deprived of the whole revenue which she had been accustomed to derive from England. Two Acts were passed forbidding the payment of annates to Rome (23 Henry VIII. and 25 Henry VIII.), by which the clergy of England were relieved of a heavy burden; but it was not in the contemplation of the Court to give to the Church what it had wrested from the Pope without requiring something in return. The demand at last assumed the form that the Church should render to the King the first fruits of all benefices and dignitaries, and the tenth of their annual revenues. It was to carry into effect this Act that the *Valor* was formed. First fruits are the revenues of one entire year as they stood at the date of the assessment. Tenths, the tenth part of the clear annual value as then ascertained and recorded in “the King's books.”

#### LOCAL CHURCHES IN THE TAXATIO.

Since the valuation (see *Taxatio*) in the time of Edward I. a great change had taken place in value estimated in money. The piety of the English nation had provided many churches; from the wealthiest dignitary to the most poorly endowed chantry, all were brought under the new Act. The principal use now (1900) to be made of the *Valor* is determining the sums payable as first fruits and tenths which are still chargeable. These payments are no longer paid to the Crown. Queen Anne, as an act of royal bounty to the Church, in the second year of her reign, gave up this source



of revenue to trustees, who were empowered to administer it for the benefit of the poorer clergy. The *Valor* also shows what churches are of ancient foundation. Amongst chapels, it shows which have existed before the Reformation, for it is held that none escaped which had before the Reformation any fixed endowment; whence it follows that any chapel not in the *Valor* is either of more recent foundation or was in the reign of King Henry VIII. without endowment. The following extracts are taken from the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* in the Public Records publications in the British Museum :—

## DEANERY OF THE FIRST PART OF BRECON.

Name of Parish as recorded.	Modern name of Parish.	Value as recorded.	Name of Parish as recorded.	Name of Modern Parish.	Value as recorded.
Llanvigan .. ..	Llanfigan .. ..	15 9 11	Crickhowell-Rectoria ..	.. .. .	109s. 8
Llandevailok .. ..	Llandefaillog .. ..	13 0 0	„ Vicaria .. ..	.. .. .	77s. 8
Estradguillos .. ..	Ystradgunlais .. ..	9 10 7	„ Porcionar .. ..	.. .. .	4 14 7
Cantref .. ..	Cantref .. ..	9 9 7	Llanfihangel Talyllyn ..	.. .. .	4 12 3
Vaynor .. ..	Vaynor .. ..	8 3 11	Llanfillo .. ..	.. .. .	6 14 9
Llanspythyt .. ..	Llanspyddid .. ..	117s. 8	Llangarse .. ..	Llangorse .. ..	109s. 11
Tallasduy .. ..	Talachddu .. ..	4 9 11	Kethoddyn .. ..	Cathedine .. ..	102s. 11
Abrysker .. ..	Aberyskir .. ..	66s. 1	THIRD PART OF BRECON.		
Penderyn .. ..	Penderyn .. ..	9 3 11			
Llanseyntfrede .. ..	Llansaint Fraed .. ..	6 4 5	Comerduy .. ..	Cwindu .. ..	9 13 1
Llandetty .. ..	Llanddetty .. ..	7 10 7	DEANERY OF BUILTH.		
Llanhamlach .. ..	Llanhamlach .. ..	6 0 19	Masemynys .. ..	Maesmynis .. ..	7 0 15
Llanfaes .. ..	Llanfaes .. ..	115s. 6	Llangammarch, preb. ..	.. .. .	27 0 0
Devynok .. ..	Defynock .. ..	14 14 0	„ Vicarage .. ..	.. .. .	8 14 5
Lluell .. ..	Llywel .. ..	9 10 5	Llanynys .. ..	.. .. .	7 0 7
Mercher .. ..	Merthyr Cynog .. ..	7 10 5	Llambeter .. ..	Llanbedr in the Hundred of Crickhowell ..	16 17 6
Llanvrenach .. ..	Llanfrynach .. ..	4 10 7	Llanurthul .. ..	Llanwrthwl .. ..	9 13 2
Llyswn .. ..	Llyswn .. ..	74s. 7	Llanavon Vaure .. ..	Llanafan Fawr ..	9 8 7
Carchprenguy .. ..	Garthbrengy .. ..	66s. 8	DEANERY OF HAY.		
Llandou .. ..	Llanddew .. ..	6 0 0	Glasebury .. ..	Glasbury .. ..	10 0 0
SECOND PART OF THE DEANERY OF BRECON.			Hay Vicarage .. ..	.. .. .	7 0 4
Llanfihangel .. ..	Llanfihangel fechan ..	60 17 8	Llanygon .. ..	Llanigon .. ..	7 7 7
Llandevachle .. ..	Llandefalle .. ..	100s. 0			
Bronlles .. ..	Bronllys .. ..	4 15 9			
Llaneley .. ..	Llanelly .. ..	4 5 3			
Llangenedir and Eglus Yaill .. ..	Llangynidr .. ..	13 4 7			
Llangastey .. ..	Llangasty-Talyllyn ..	4 18 7			

In this return, Ystradfellte is not mentioned, but was probably included in Defynock, of which it was deemed a chapelry. Llandefaillog tregraig is similarly a chapel of Llanfillo. Llandeilo'r fan and Llanfihangel nant bran were then unseparated from Defynock. Trallong unmentioned as a perpetual curacy; Battle was a hamlet of St. John. Llanywern was then a chapelry. In Builth, Llanfechan was perhaps considered a chapelry to Llanafan fawr, and the same may apply to Alltmawr. Gwenddwr and Crickadarn were curacies of Llandefalle. These explanations will perhaps account for all the apparent omissions. How Llanbedr came to be included in the deanery of Builth is difficult of solution. Since the Taxatio of Edward I., Crickhowell has been made a parish, and the curious division of its emoluments into three portions will be found explained under Crickhowell.

Upon the union of Wales with England, the interests and political events of both countries became so amalgamated, that the history of one, is, generally speaking, the history of the other. Among the other lordships marchers, the little *Imperium in imperio* of Breconshire ceased, and the lord of Brecon had from thence forward no greater authority than any other lord of a manor in England. The first steward of this lordship after it vested in the crown, was Henry earl of Worcester, who was appointed to that office for life, soon after the duke's execution by King Henry the Eighth.

## WILLIAM SALESBURY, AND JOHN PENRY.

In 1551, William Salesbury, son of Foulk Salesbury, Esq., of Llanwrst, Denbighshire, published the Epistles and Gospels in Welsh, followed in 1567 by his translation of the New Testament into Welsh. In this he was assisted by Richard Davies, Bishop of St. David's; Dr. William Morgan (subsequently Bishop of St. Asaph, and who was in 1561 translated to the see of St. David's), and by Thomas Huet, rector of Cefn Llys and Disserth, Radnor, and precentor of St. David's from 1562 to 1588, in which latter year the translation of the Bible was completed. Huet built Tymawr in the



hamlet of Llysdimam, Brecknockshire, where he died in the year 1591, and lies buried in the churchyard of Llanavan.

John Penry was born in Brecknockshire in 1559. He was the son of Meredith Penry of Cefn Brith, Llangammarch, the surname being originally Ap Henry. John matriculated at Peterhouse, Cambridge, 3rd December, 1580. At this time he professed Roman Catholic opinions, but soon adopted the Puritan doctrines. In 1583 he graduated B.A., and subsequently became a commoner of St. Alban's Hall, Oxford, where he took the M.A. degree 1586. His principles did not allow him to take holy orders; none the less he practised both at Cambridge and Oxford.

He was deeply impressed with the spiritual destitution of his native county, where he preached generally in the open air with rousing energy. In 1586 he wrote an address to the Queen and Parliament on behalf of the country of Wales that some order may be taken for the preaching of the Gospel among the people. In it he drew a forcible picture of the ignorance of his fellow countrymen, of their belief in fairies and magic, their adherence to Roman Catholic opinions, and the silence and misconduct of the clergy. He urged the necessity of a Welsh translation of the Old Testament. This address was published at Oxford, and in a shortened form presented as a petition to Parliament. The Archbishop of Canterbury was not inclined to overlook an attack on the Church, so he issued his warrant calling in the book and ordering the author's arrest. Five hundred copies of the treatise were seized, Penry's opinions were pronounced heretical, and on his refusal to recant, he was sent to prison for twelve days.

#### PENRY'S PRINTING PRESS.

In April, 1587, he married Eleanor Godley, of Northampton. In Michaelmas, 1588, Penry purchased a printing press, which he deposited secretly at the house of Mr. Crane, at East Moulsey. Within three weeks, the first of the Martin Mar Prelate tracts were published. Then followed "An Exhortation to the Governours and People of Wales to labour earnestly to have the preaching of the Gospel planted among them," and other works of a polemical nature. Mr. Crane, from whose house these tracts emanated, having shown signs of alarm, the press was removed to the mansion of Sir Richard Knightley, a puritan squire of Northamptonshire. Penry was obliged to live with great secrecy, and in 1589 the press was seized by the authorities. On 29th January of the same year his house at Northampton was searched, his papers removed, and the Mayor was directed to apprehend Penry as a traitor, but before this could be carried out he fled to Scotland, where he was well received. In 1592, the controversy having subsided, Penry left Edinburgh with the intention of renewing his evangelising efforts in Wales. He, however, went to London, where for some time he was not molested, but on 21st May, 1593, he was put on his trial on a charge of having, while at Edinburgh, feloniously written certain words with intent to excite rebellion and insurrection in England. Penry was found guilty of treason, and sentenced to death; a week later, May 29, at five in the afternoon, he was hanged at St. Thomas a Watering, Surrey.

By Welsh historians, Penry is reckoned the pioneer of Welsh Nonconformity. He was a religious enthusiast, believing himself to be an instrument of God for the reformation of the Church and for sowing the seed of the Gospel amongst the mountains of Wales. In his writings he compared himself to Jeremiah and to Paul. It is not from such that mankind can expect prudence, but a modern judgment would probably be that, like the Apostles, he had done nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

#### BIBLE TRANSLATED INTO WELSH.

In the 5th year of Elizabeth, 1562—3, the Bible was ordered (chap. 28), to be translated into Welsh—"Whereas the Queen's most excellent Majesty did in the first year of her reign set forth a book of Common Prayer in the English tongue, which tongue is not understood of the most of Her Majesty's loving subjects within her country of Wales, who therefore are utterly destitute of God's Holy Word, and remain in more darkness than they were in the time of Papistry, be it enacted that the Bishop of Hereford, St. David's, Asaph, Bangor, and Llandaf, shall take order that the whole Bible be duly translated into the Welsh tongue....."

#### ERECTION OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD.

In 1571, Dr. Hugh Price, of Brecon, obtained the Queen's leave to erect Jesus College, Oxford, and to endow it with lands and tenements to the annual value of £60. The expense of building amounted in his lifetime to about £1,500 and £300 was left in the hands of Sir E. Thelwall towards the completion of the work.

#### INSURRECTION IN BRECONSHIRE.

"During the reign of Elizabeth, through the interest of Mrs. Blanche Parry, chief gentlewoman of her majesty's privy chamber (of whom we shall have occasion to say more, when we come to speak of the branch of the Parry family settled in Breconshire), Harry Vaughan of Moccas was



appointed her majesty's lieutenant for Brecon and steward of her castle and the lordships of Brecon and Dinas. This gentleman was of the Porthaml branch of the Vaughans, being a son of Watkin Vaughan of Tregunter, by Joan Parry, a daughter of Miles ap Harri or Parry of Poston in Herefordshire, the eldest brother of Mrs. Blanche Parry. Soon after the death of Elizabeth an insurrection of a very serious nature appears to have been projected, and in part executed in the county of Brecknock; though we have not been able to trace the cause of the dispute, nor is the event mentioned by any historian. Probably it arose from a desire of resisting the payments of the chief rents, the strict levy of cymorth, the *benevolence of the Welshmen*, or else from some oppressive acts committed by those who were appointed to collect these dues. An old Welsh song in the hand writing of one Thomas Powel, a prisoner in the county gaol of Brecknock in the year 1680, alone preserves the memory of this occurrence.

"It was written in Welsh, but we give the English translation only:—

Now hear me with attention,  
All ye magistrates of Breconshire,  
While with pleasure I praise gentlemen;  
Two much esteem'd 'squires,  
Sprung from Moreiddig:  
It is probable they'll be members of parliament (or knights).

Mr. Harry Vaughan,  
A just and upright lieutenant,  
And Steward paramount we know,  
Particularly of Dinas  
And Brecon castle,  
We've seen him in this situation in perilous times.

When old Bess died,  
He promised full stoutly  
He'd come and defend us like Samson;  
He is indeed a man, fully  
Has he carried his point;  
However troublesome and alarming the times.

When the inhabitants of the high lands came down.

All under arms,  
Bringing with them pointed bills (or bill hooks);  
They said they'd pull down the castle,  
That he should no longer be permitted to keep it,  
That they'd drag him bleeding from his chamber.

They came down twelve hundred in number,  
Of this I beg leave to assure (or warrant to) you.

They said they'd killed fifteen hundred  
*And if they could but penetrate into the castle,*  
They'd make it another Troy,  
My companions be united and steady together.

Harry Vaughan came  
With little fear,  
And six of his relations equally undaunted;  
He was another Hector,  
He cared not for their arms  
But sent them bootless home.

They whispered to one another,  
As they climbed the hills,  
We've returned with shame my dear Christians:  
Vaughan of what place do they call this man?  
He's a rough one,  
God preserve us poor ignorant men from him.

*Poet.*—Mr. Harry's mother  
Was a daughter of Miles Parry,  
Quite a notable heiress, we've heard  
Of the land of Seudamore and Ewyas,  
From the Milbourns she brought them,  
Isn't that the marriage from whence they came?

"The song then proceeds to give us more of the lieutenant's pedigree, and the names of his companions, in vile spelling and worse poetry; the author does not mean (however strong the likeness between Harry and Hector) to assert that seven men beat twelve hundred, but that Vaughan and his associates by the assistance they rendered to the garrison, both by their talents and their bravery, enabled them to drive the enemy back without their errand.

"However despicable this ballad may be as a composition, it contains much curious information; from it we learn that the weapon used at this time in Wales, as well as in England, was a bill or billhook with a pike at the end.



*Bilwg a pîg yn ei bôn.*



"This instrument, says Sir William Temple, gave the most ghastly and deplorable wounds, and it certainly is of a very destructive construction, but it is by no means calculated for the attack of a castle, and therefore it is not difficult to account for the assailants' want of success; indeed they seem to have expected to obtain a victory by surprise, but the governor or steward, being by some means or other apprised of their intentions, threw himself and a few select friends into the fortress, and the gates being secured, the fire of a few pieces of artillery and musketry must have dispersed them in a few minutes, and compelled them to take to their heels as fast as they could scamper; from this song likewise it appears that the English garrisons or the forces and adherents of that country, then in Brecknockshire, were computed at fifteen hundred men.

#### THE LORDSHIP OF BRECON.

"The lordship or manor of Brecon is that part of the county which since the erection of the castle of Brecon, continually has been appendant and appurtenant to that fortress; it consisted of nearly the whole of the hundred of Merthyr Cynog, of that part of Llywel which is Northward of the Usk, and of the parishes of Llanspyddid, St. David's, and Cantreff to the river Cynrig. The lordship of the great forest, or at least a great part of it, being acquired by the successors of Bernard Newmarch, subsequent to the conquest of Wales by Edward I. was not part of the lordship marcher, but was held by the lords of Brecon, like all other territories in Wales, (except the marches) as a fief under the Crown of England. While both these possessions continued in the same hands and under the same tenures, they were properly called the great lordship of Brecon; but since the attainder of the last Stafford duke of Buckingham, when they were dissevered, this term is erroneous.

#### THE GREAT FOREST OF BRECKNOCK.

King Charles II. granted to Mr. Rice the agistment of the Great Forest of Brecon (under date 1661), late parcel of the lands of Edward late Duke of Buckingham, attainted of high treason, the profits, &c., having been before demised to William Jones, gentleman, by the late Queen Elizabeth, 17 March, 1581 for the term of 21 years, except reserved all wild animals and deer within the said Forest of Brecon and the herbage and feeding for them; to have and to hold for the term of 31 years paying yearly for the agistment of the said forest £20 6s. 8d. Mr. Rice Jones undertook to collect all dues and to deliver every third year a perfect terrier of the forest.

"The lordship of the forest, which contains the most extensive part of the district, now (1805), held under a lease by Sir Charles Morgan, should be called the manor of the great forest, or the great forest of Devynnock, within the county of Brecon; and the remainder of which he holds in fee, when compared with this, will almost sink into the *little* lordship of Brecon. The boundary of the great forest commences on the North East with the fall of the river Camlais into the Usk; it proceeds up this latter river to its source, being intersected opposite Rhyd y briw, by the manor of the little forest; it then follows the boundary between Glamorganshire and Breconshire to the Taaf Vawr; here it proceeds upwards to the bridge which crosses the turnpike road from Brecon to Merthyr near the eighth mile stone, the boundary here is upon the North side of the Taaf upwards to the source of a brook called Podagau, leaving the Western van or beacon close upon the right; down this brook to the Tarell, which it crosses, and then proceeds in nearly a straight line to the source of the Camlais, the boundary to the fall, where it commenced. In 10 Geo. 1. this manor was demised by the Prince of Wales to William Morgan of Tredegar, esq., to hold for twenty-one years after the expiration of a term then in existence, at the yearly rent of 20l. 6d. 8d. This term has been frequently since renewed, and under a late grant from the crown, Sir Charles Morgan now (1805) holds it for a certain number of years yet to come.

"The lordship of Brecknock remained entirely in the Crown until 1617, when it was granted to Sir Francis Bacon, Sir John Dacombe and other trustees, for ninety-nine years, for the use of the Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles the First. This term after several assignments became vested in 1639 in Thomas Morgan of Machan, in the county of Monmouth, esquire, Robert Williams, esquire, and Robert Stafford, gentleman; the two latter in 1662 released their interest to Mr. Morgan of Machan, and in the meantime the fee was conveyed by Charles the First, in the seventh year of his reign, to trustees for the use of Sir William Russel, reserving to the Crown an annual fee farm rent of forty-four pounds and one half-penny. Sir William Russel, in the following year, parted with his interest to Phillip Earl of Pembroke, from whom it was purchased in 1639 by William Morgan of Dderw or Therw in Breconshire, esquire, whose daughter and heiress, Blanch, intermarrying with William Morgan of Tredegar, esquire, son of the above named Thomas Morgan of Machan, brought this and other property in Brecknockshire to that family, in which it still continues.

#### LLOYD'S HISTORY OF THE FOREST.

In the year 1905, Mr. John Lloyd, J.P., Barrister-at-law, of London, a son of the late John Lloyd,





HAY CASTLE IN 1805

*(From a Drawing by Sir R. Colt Hoare).*







Esq., J.P., of Dinas, Brecknock, compiled from original documents and published a "History of the Forest from the Conquest of England to the Present Time." The scope of the work may be judged from the following table of contents:—The Early History of the Great Forest; The Hill Causes (Trials 1786); The 1813 Trial with the Crown—the compromise; The First Settlement; Inclosure and Award; Sale of the Crown Allotment; The Waun Tinker lawsuit—Morgan v. Lloyd, right of shooting, 1846; The Public Limestone Quarries—various lawsuits, 1878 and 1886; The Commoners' Allotment-Owners Bill in Parliament in 1893, and its failure. To which are annexed (1) Lord Hobhouse on the Legal Position of the Great Forest, 1890; Lease of Minerals of Part of Great Forest to Mr. Johnes in 1804; Copy of the Forest Award of 1819, with schedule of Allotment-Holders; A Bill for Constituting the Commoners of the Great Forest of Brecknock a Body Corporate. In the preface to this most useful contribution to County History, the Author says: "The following pages are written with the object of placing fully before those interested the history of the Forest lands; and the Author hopes that a clear knowledge of the events of the past may assist in bringing a peaceful and lasting settlement of the Forest difficulties..... Nearly all the documents referred to are to be found among the *Maybery Papers*,<sup>1</sup> and are authentic and trustworthy, many of them being the original documents." There is a large coloured map of the Forest, dated 1819, attached to the work, and readers interested in this subject cannot do better than consult its pages. The present solicitors to the Commoners are Messrs. Jeffreys and Powell, of Brecon.

## OWNERS OF MANORS IN 1805.

Builth, as well as Dinas and Blanalbyni, were alienated in the reign of James the First. The former was purchased by Sir Edmund Sawyer, from whom by the marriage of his daughter it came to Sir Thomas Williams, the paternal ancestor of the Langoed baronets, who sold it to Judge Gwynne of Garth; in whose family it is at present (1805): a moiety of Cantreff-selyff was granted by the Crown about the same period, to the Williamses of Gwernyved, who uniting with the other line, the baronets, Williams of Tallyn and the Lodge, possessed it until it was sold about 1800 to John Macnamara, esquire, whose lady being descended from the Wogans of Wiston in Pembrokeshire, and consequently from Gwrgan ap Bleddin ap Maenarch, by a singular train of events, was seized of part of the property her ancestors enjoyed eight hundred years previously. The other moiety was granted by the Crown in the reign of Elizabeth, to Vaughan of Porthamal, from whom it has descended to the Earls of Ashburnham. The manor of Hay was illegally possessed in the reign of Henry the Eighth by James Boyle, as part of the possessions of the priory of Hereford, of which it certainly never was parcel; however, in the reign of James the First, Howel Gwyn of Trecastle, marrying his grand-daughter and coheir Mary, obtained a grant of it as well as several possessions in the neighbourhood; from him it descended to the Vaughans of Trebarried, whose representative, the widow of the Honourable John Harley, D.D., late bishop of Hereford, possessed it in 1805: and Penkelly after several conveyances, which will be more minutely mentioned hereafter, became the estate of the Games' and Jones' of Buckland, and afterwards of the Jeffreys', from the latter of whom it was purchased by Thynne Howe Gwynne, esquire.

## ACCESSION OF KING CHARLES I.

On the 27th March, 1625, King Charles I. ascended the throne of England. His accession was an event of unalloyed pleasure to the great majority of the nation; his virtuous and pure life pleased all men. No King ever ascended the throne with better prospects of a peaceful reign. Unfortunately he had been brought up in a bad school, imbued from childhood with lofty ideas of kingly power, surrounded by servile flatterers. Charles immediately found himself at variance with his Parliament. Amongst the Commons were a party strongly possessed with Puritan feeling, a dislike to hierarchy, and a dread of incroachment from the Church of Rome. To maintain a hold over the King, they limited the supplies, granting a sum insufficient for the needs of the Crown in view of probable war with Spain. King Charles dissolved Parliament. On the very same day he ordered the Lords Lieutenants to borrow from the rich in their respective counties. The so called loan was practically compulsory, as the names of those refusing were to be sent to the Council. The amount collected was small, but the dissatisfaction was intense. In the county of Brecon one hundred and five pounds only were lent by seven persons. Letters had been sent to seventeen; seven only paid, and the rest sent excuses.

## LEVY OF SHIP MONEY IN BRECONSHIRE.

The necessities of the King became more urgent. A new Parliament was assembled in February, 1626, but dissolved in the following June without supply being granted. Vessels were

<sup>1</sup> When the late Mr. H. O. A. Maybery ceased to practice as a solicitor (1905), a large number of very valuable documents relating to property in the County, and to the Iron and Coal Works of South Wales, were discovered by Mr. Lloyd, who, jointly with Sir W. T. Lewis, Bart., went to the expense of having them tabulated and copied. Some of those documents have been published in book form under the editorship of Mr. John Lloyd.



wanted to carry on the war. In 1627 the seaport towns were called upon to furnish them; this had not been unusual in times of emergency, but money being again wanted in 1635, ship money was again demanded. Now, however, it was levied on inland counties, and in a time of peace. In all, £200,000 was to be collected—Wales to pay £9,000, the proportion of Brecknockshire being £933. Little objection seems to have been raised to this impost; a further attempt to raise ship money was made in October, 1636, but this time it was not easy, even in Wales, to collect the money. At the 3rd November, 1640, Parliament again met, and its members were determined to check the Royal power and reform abuses. The Court of Marches in Wales, which had become an instrument of oppression, was abolished. Stafford, the favourite minister of the King, was impeached, and, deserted by his royal master, executed. Among the defenders of Stafford was Mr., afterwards Sir, Herbert Price, of the Priory, Brecon, and member for that borough, representing possibly the loyalists of his constituents. The breach between King and Parliament widened daily, and fearing violence, Charles quitted London on the 10th January, 1642.

#### THE COMMENCEMENT OF CIVIL WAR.

The Parliament now attempted to obtain command of the Militia, and appointed deputy lieutenants in every county, generally persons not inimical to the King, against whom they still professed no quarrel. In the beginning of August, King Charles appointed the Marquis of Hertford, lieutenant for the six counties of South Wales and the neighbouring districts of England, with power to levy forces against all enemies in any of the said counties. During the summer months the country was stirred to its very depths, and on both sides earnest preparations for war were being made. In South Wales the influence of the Marquis of Worcester was very great, and throughout the war he remained the most lavish supporter of the king. In Brecknockshire, Herbert Price of the Priory, was influential on the same side. Throughout the Principality the Royal cause predominated.

At the commencement of 1642, King Charles lay at York. In August he marched across the country, reaching Shrewsbury on September 20; here he was joined by his nephew, Prince Rupert of Bohemia. The town, being on the borders of Wales, where the Royalists were in a large majority, remained the headquarters for the Army during the war, and here the King stayed for a month. South Wales was free from the excitement which the Royal presence caused in the north, but Lord Herbert, eldest son of the Marquis of Worcester and others, were busy collecting arms and training men. Prince Charles of Wales visited Raglan Castle, where he was received with princely hospitality, and passing back through Radnor the people everywhere greeted him with affection.

#### BRECKNOCKSHIRE FIGHTS FOR THE KING.

On the 12th October, the King resolved to advance on London; he met the Parliamentary Army at Edgehill in Warwickshire, and in this battle a great many Welshmen were engaged; "clad in the same garments in which they left their native fields, with scythes, pitchforks, and even sickles in their hands, they cheerfully took the field, and literally, like reapers, descended to the harvest of death." The issue of the day was doubtful, but the King shortly after retreated to Oxford, where he spent the winter. In the meantime, Lord Herbert raised an army in Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, and advanced into England; meeting with defeat, he re-crossed the Severn into South Wales. With Royal armies raised to the north and south of them, we may well imagine that men of Brecknockshire joined in the fighting for the King; yet the tide of war passed not up the Vale of Usk.

In the following year, 1643, Lord Herbert was appointed Lieutenant General of South Wales and Monmouthshire, and again he raised an army for the King, joining Prince Rupert at Cirencester, after taking that town. Herbert met with defeat at Gloucester, and Waller, the Parliamentary General, pursued the army into South Wales, when Monmouth, Chepstow, and Hereford fell in quick succession, the negotiations at the latter place being undertaken by Colonel Herbert Price of the Priory, Brecon, who now for the first time drew sword for the King. War was thus raging to the immediate west and south, yet the mountains of Brecknock still remained inviolate.

#### ROYALIST DEFEATS.

At the commencement of 1644 the King was at Oxford. Prince Rupert was appointed President of Wales, and on the 18th February he arrived at Shrewsbury, where throughout the year he defended the Royal cause with but moderate success. In South Wales the year opened badly for the Royalists. Colonel Laugharne, the Parliamentary leader, escaped from Pembroke and took the town of Tenby. Cardigan and Carmarthen were garrisoned for the King. Laugharne on April 10th and 11th mustered his troops, and the town of Carmarthen was "gotten by the sword by Pembroke men"; the help which had been expected from Brecknock came not. Colonel C. Gerard was now



placed in command of the Royal forces in South Wales, and he landed at Chepstow. Early in June he fell on the town of Carmarthen, which he presently mastered, and proceeded to subdue all Wales with such vigour that by the end of August Pembroke and Tenby were the only places remaining to the Parliament. In North Wales the Parliamentary army had in September taken Newtown, held only by a small garrison of Royalists, and Montgomery Castle had been surrendered. Powis Castle in Montgomeryshire had fallen and Monmouth had been taken by the Parliamentary forces. Gerard, who had been watching Laugharne at Pembroke, marched northward through Abergavenny to Worcester, hoping there to join the King. His Majesty had, however, met with defeat at Newbury, and retreated into winter quarters at Oxford. Massey, the Parliamentary general, started from Monmouth in pursuit of Gerard, and in his absence the Royalists re-captured the town. Thus for still another year did the clash of arms resound through the neighbouring counties, while the county of Brecknock was spared the horrors of battle.

On April 23rd, 1645, Gerard was again ordered into South Wales, where Col. Laugharne had resumed activity. Meeting with him at Newcastle Emlyn, Gerard defeated him with great loss, and Haverfordwest yielded the next day. Once more the Parliamentary forces were enclosed in Tenby and Pembroke, and the tide seemed turning in favour of royalty, so much so that when, on the 7th of May, the King left Oxford, he wrote to the Queen under date 9th of May, "Never since the beginning of the rebellion have my affairs been in so good a position." But on the 13th was fought the battle of Naseby, and here the forces of the King were utterly routed. Charles determined to go to Hereford, and thence into Wales, where he thought the people still true to him. He reached Hereford on the 19th June, and here Gerard joined him with 2,000 horse and foot; but on the 1st July His Majesty left Hereford for Abergavenny, on the 3rd proceeded to Raglan, where he was certain of hearty welcome, and so spent nearly a fortnight in inactivity while the Parliamentary forces were closing round. On the 16th the King visited Sir William Morgan at Tredegar, returning on the 18th to Raglan, and on the 24th His Majesty essayed to fly to Bristol, but abandoned the design.

## KING CHARLES I. AT RUPERRA.

Bridgewater had fallen, Hereford was in need of relief, and it was hoped that a Welsh army might be raised, but the ardour of Wales was gone. Sir Charles Gerard was a brave soldier, but a tyrannical ruler, and he had alienated the hearts of the people. From the 25th to the 29th July, the King was at Ruperra, the guest of Sir Philip Morgan, and on the 29th he was at Cardiff. At the instance of the Welsh, Sir C. Gerard was removed from command, and Sir Jacob Astley put in his place. Col. Laugharne, hearing how things were going with the Royalists, determined to try once more the issue of battle, and on Friday, August 1st, he met the King's forces at Colby, Mon., and utterly routed them, so that on Saturday the town of Haverfordwest again fell into his hands.

## THE KING AT BRECON: LETTER TO HIS SON.

The country now cried loudly for peace. The King's prospects were very sad, and Prince Rupert, from Bristol, counselled his sovereign to seek peace. Let Charles's reply speak for itself: "Speaking as a mere soldier and statesman, I must say there is no probability but of my ruin; yet as a Christian I must tell you that God will not suffer rebels and traitors to prosper nor this cause to be overthrown, and whatever personal punishment it shall please Him to inflict upon me must not make me repine.....Composition with them is nothing else but a submission, which, by the grace of God, I am resolved against whatsoever it cost me, for I know my obligation to be, both in conscience and honour, neither to abandon God's cause, injure my successors, nor forsake my friends....." It was, however, high time for the King to study his own safety, as he was in the midst of danger. The Scots were at Hereford, and Laugharne, victorious in Pembroke, was said to be marching eastward; accordingly the King, on the night of the 4th of August, set forth from Cardiff at the head of a small force, and marched over the mountains to Brecknock, where he rested for the night at the Priory, the house of his faithful friend Sir Herbert Price, then governor of the town.

At Brecon, dated 5th August, 1645, he wrote to his son a most pathetic letter, from which we extract the following:—"Charles,—It is very fit for me now to prepare for the worst, in order to which I spoke with Colepepper this morning concerning you, judging fit to give it you under my hand, that you may give the readiest obedience to it. Wherefore know that my pleasure is, whensoever you find yourself in apparent danger of falling into the rebels' hands, that you convey yourself into France, and there to be under your mother's care, who is to have the absolute full power of your education in all things except religion and in that not to meddle at all, but leave it entirely to the care of your tutor, the Bishop of Salisbury....Your Loving Father, CHARLES, R." The next day,



Wednesday the 6th, the King passed out of Brecknock into Radnor, and on his way he dined at Sir Henry Williams's seat at Gwernynyfed, reaching Old Radnor the same evening. Thence he fled to Yorkshire and then to Oxford on the 28th, knowing possibly not where to go. From Newport, Sir Joseph Astley wrote that "the gentry of Brecknock were inclined to be neutral and to join with the strongest party," nor could he get help from Monmouth or Glamorgan.

#### PROMINENT ROYALISTS IN BRECONSHIRE.

Elated by some successes in the north, the King returned to Hereford, the siege of which was raised on his approach. Once more the King was seduced by the pleasures of Raglan, where he wasted a fortnight, and Langdale, his lieutenant, marched to Brecon, with what purpose is not clear. Laugharne, major general in the Parliamentary army, was busy in Pembrokeshire, and Carew and Manorbier Castles were taken early in September; Picton yielded on the 20th, and Pembroke was cleared of Royalists. Carmarthen negotiated a treaty. In Glamorganshire, the people were now unanimous for the Parliament; and having little to do in that county, Major General Laugharne pushed his way into Brecknock, a county which had hitherto escaped wonderfully from the ravages of war. The majority of the gentry in Brecknock were favourable to the King. Herbert Price of the Priory, member for the borough, took up arms for the King, and was disabled from sitting in Parliament. John Jeffreys of Abercynrig, Lewis Lloyd of Wernos, and Edward Games of Buckland, were conspicuous Royalists; but resistance was hopeless, and they may not have been loth, from motives of expediency, to propitiate the victorious party. Laugharne reached Brecon and was well received. For a short time the Castle, under Colonel Turberville Morgan, held out, but it fell, and the entire county was subdued. On the 17th November the county was assessed in £120 weekly; and on the 23rd, thirty-four of the leading men of the county signed a declaration offering to submit their lives and fortunes to the service of Parliament. Herbert Price and John Jeffreys were absent. Laugharne sent the declaration to Parliament, where it was read on the 5th of December "with satisfaction."

At the close of the year the people of Brecon must have heard with less satisfaction of further Royalists' defeats, of a host of cavaliers taken prisoners at Hereford, amongst them Sir Marmaduke Lloyd, chief justice of the great sessions for Brecon, Radnor, and Glamorgan; Lieutenant-col. Herbert Price of Brecknock; and Lieutenant-Col. Jeffreys of Abercynrig, Brecon. This happened on the 18th December. In 1646, South Wales was reduced to obedience to the Parliament; the county of Brecon had made submission; and the King yielded himself to the Scotch. In August, Raglan Castle, after a most brave defence, was forced to capitulate. The civil war was at an end.

#### SIR WILLIAM LEWIS OF LLANGORSE.

The year 1647 marks the commencement of disagreements between the victors—the Army and Parliament. The Presbyterians in Parliament voted the disbandment of the Army, and the Army insisted on being paid all arrears, granted an indemnity for acts done during the war, and other advantages. A meeting with Parliamentary Commissioners only led to further demands, that eleven members of the House, the chief enemies of the Army, should be impeached and in the meantime expelled the House. Of these eleven members, Sir William Lewis of Llangorse, in the county of Brecknock, member for Peterfield, was one. He and John Glyn of Carmarthen, Recorder of London, were charged with having acted in excess of their powers on a committee for the settling of Wales; Sir W. Lewis was also charged with protecting delinquents,<sup>1</sup> amongst them Mr. Morgan, late knight of the shire, Mr. John Herbert, and others in Brecknock, freeing them from composition, and urging them to continue true to the King; that many faithful to the Parliament had been unrewarded; that he had caused the personal estate of Colonel Herbert Price (Governor of Brecon for the King) to be restored to him; and had caused his real estate, worth £300 a year, to be let to a friend for £50 for the benefit of Price's wife. All these allegations were denied, but the charges were not investigated, the accused members going across seas.

#### BADGE OF BRECONSHIRE ROYALISTS.

The first of March, 1648, was the day fixed for the disbanding of some of the forces in Wales. Poyer, an officer of the Parliamentary army, declined either to disband or to deliver up the castle of Pembroke, and the Parliament's Commissioners were set at defiance. Colonel Horton was sent to quell the insurrection, and to carry out the disbandment of the troops. Early in April he established himself at Brecon, having dispersed a small garrison brought together by some of the gentry. Mr. Games appears to have been the leader of the movement, and he and some ten others were made

<sup>1</sup> Only four persons compounded for their estates in Brecknockshire, in consequence of their attachment to the royal cause, these were John Herbert, of Crickhowel, esq. for £397; John Jeffreys of Abercynrig, esq. for £380; Lewis Morgan, of Llangeney, gent, for £9; and John Williams, of Park in Builth, for £50 18s 0d.



prisoners. The Royalists of Brecon, thus deprived of their leading men, were by no means put down, but joining with some from Radnorshire endeavoured to raise troops to harass Horton. An anonymous writer of the period makes this comment, dated from "Brecknock, April 29, 1648":—"Colonel Horton since his first coming here hath deported himself well. There were divers gentlemen of the county, Mr. Games and others, had drawn in same to garrison this town [Brecon] for the King, who do daily increase their strength. It is reported that they are about 5,000 and mostly armed, the malignant gentlemen wear blue ribbons in their hats with this motto:

"I long to see C { a crown } R"  
"His Majestie { a rose }

Whilst Colonel Horton, writing to General Fairfax from St. Fagan's under date May 6, 1648, says:—"In my last I made mention of sundry gentlemen of the counties of Brecknock and Radnor met in Bulth to consult about the raising of the counties.....and my sending a party to apprehend them, the success whereof was the taking of one Mr. Hugh Lloyd (one of the excepted persons, Lewis Lloyd, late Sheriff of Brecon, and one of his sons Marmaduke Lloyd, and some others..... Captain Creed with three troupes of Thornhaugh's regiment doth very good service, being now quartered about Glasbury Bridge, which is a great pass near the junction of the counties of Hereford, Radnor, and Brecon....."

In the month of January, 1649, King Charles I. was beheaded at Whitehall.

#### COLONEL JENKIN JONES OF LLANDDETTY.

"It has been seen that in 1648, the tide of popular opinion was in favour of royalty: to the change of sentiments, which afterwards prevailed, several causes contributed. Hugh Peters having been sent by Cromwell to raise a regiment in South Wales, instead of recruiting, employed his time in Swansea, in drinking and dissipation, and fearing he might be called to account for his negligence and inattention, he pretended he had been engaged in forming, what he called a "congregational church."<sup>1</sup> In this he was assisted by a Colonel Phillip Jones<sup>2</sup> of Penywain in Llangavelech (a parish in the neighbourhood of Swansea), a zealous and active partizan of Cromwell's, who in 1656 became *one* of the members for the county of Brecknock, both having been then chosen for the county, and not one for the borough; he was also at that time one of his highness's council. In conjunction with this associate and a Mr. Samson Lort, they ventured to suggest what was afterwards called, the root and branch scheme; this was no other than the sequestration of all ecclesiastical benefices and revenues without exception, and bringing them into one public treasury, out of which six itinerant (puritanical) ministers in every county were to be allowed one hundred a year each. To establish this godly reformation, an act was obtained, entitled 'an act for the propagation of the gospel in Wales;' under this law, needy and rapacious commissioners were appointed, who seized upon the property of the church, and ousted her most respectable ministers under the most trivial pretences and at the same time that they decried tythes, they enforced their payment with the utmost rigour, though no clear account could ever be procured how they were applied<sup>3</sup>. The infamous character and conduct of the inventors of this scheme, as well as the extortion and injustice with which it was attended and executed, alienated the minds of the generality of the inhabitants of Breconshire, and the dislike to the power of parliament which appeared there in 1648, was also greatly augmented by the knowledge of the harsh treatment of their captive monarch, as well as by the development of the interested views of the popular leaders, now become evident to all thinking men; but notwithstanding this general disinclination to obey the powers of the day, such was the activity and courage of the troops employed to crush the rising spirit of disaffection (as it was called) aided by the bravery and conduct, as well as the forces of a Colonel Jenkin<sup>4</sup> Jones or Jenkin John Howel of Llanddetty in Breconshire, that they were obliged reluctantly to submit to the government of the commonwealth, and afterwards to the usurpation of Cromwell, though not without considerable struggles and frequent heart burnings, which occasionally broke out in complaints of the injuries and oppressions exercised over the country by the propagators of the gospel, and their agents and servants. A very strong memorial of this nature was presented by Mr. Edward<sup>5</sup> Williams, sheriff of Breconshire in 1659, in answer to the queries from a committee of parliament to inquire how Wales was supplied with a ministry. It is much to be lamented that this curious

<sup>1</sup> Walker's sufferings of the elergy, vol.1. p. 147.

<sup>2</sup> Acestor of the present family of Jones, of Fonmon castle, in Glamorganshire.

<sup>3</sup> It is remarkable that the act for the propagation of the gospel in Wales is not to be found in Scobel's collection of statutes, &c.

<sup>4</sup> We shall have occasion to introduce this Mr. Jenkin Jones

to the acquaintance of our readers and to say a good deal more of him when we come to treat of the parochial history of the parish of Llanddetty.

<sup>5</sup> He was one of the descendants of the Bullens and lived at Gwern-y-vigin, in the parish of Trallong, in Breconshire; he will be seen hereafter in the Abercamlais pedigree.



document is not now to be found; from several extracts from it in Walker, it appears that this truly patriotic officer reprobated in very strong terms the conduct of the commissioners appointed under the act just mentioned, charging them with having ejected and dispossessed those clergymen who were most eminent for the purity of their lives, or for their literary abilities, and suffering those only to hold benefices or preferments, who were ignorant, but ready to farm the tithes, or to take small stipends from the reformers. For the boldness of his language, Mr. Williams was removed from his office, and Lewis Jones of Trebinshun, son of the fighting and praying Colonel Jenkin Jones, substituted in his room, but Williams was replaced the following year (A.D. 1660) upon the restoration of Charles the Second, whose return was hailed with acclamations by his Welsh subjects, which were repaid in the same manner as he rewarded the majority of his English friends.

In the reign of his brother and successor, who was engaged in the absurd attempt to convert and convince his subjects against their will, some of his partizans in the neighbouring counties, who were induced to support him from political or religious motives, endeavoured to avail themselves of the loyalty of the county of Brecknock, and similar efforts were made when his descendent landed in this kingdom; but they were soon convinced that we were enemies alike to arbitrary power and popular outrages, that the despotism of an individual who claimed a right to dispense with the laws at his pleasure was equally odious to us, with the fluctuating and unstable government of the many, and that the inhabitants of this part of Wales were determined to support that constitution to which we have now been so long habituated and endeared, and to which no portion of his majesty's subjects feel more warmly attached than we do, while it preserves the renovating and sanative power of amending its defects (a power, neither too frequent or too hastily to be exercised), while it accommodates our wants, encourages our arts, our commerce and our manufactures, as far as it can be done without prejudice to the general weal of the kingdom, and while under it we enjoy *rational* liberty and the protection of our persons and properties, by the operation of laws, dictated by wisdom and the light of experience, and administered to all ranks and conditions in life with equal justice and impartiality.

#### DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY ROADS AND PLACES IN 1765.

The following description of towns, villages, and roads in the county of Brecknock in the year 1675, is taken from John Ogilby's *Roads of England and Wales*. Road from Chester to Cardiff so far as it passes through Brecknock:—"From Radnorshire you cross Wye over a wooden bridg, where you at once enter Brecknockshire and the town of Bealt, a small town seated amongst woods contains about 80 houses; hath a grand market on Monday's for live cattel, and two petty on Thursdays and Saturdays for provisions, with 3 fairs yearly, viz., 16th of June, the 21st of September, and St. Katherin's Day." [The description of the 16-mile road to Brecon is here described.] "Enter Brecknock seated at the confluence of the Usk and Hondy, called by the 'Britains' Aberhondy. It is a large town corporate, containing three parish churches, viz., St. Maries, St. John Evangelist, and the College, and is divided into 11 wards, was formerly strengthened with a wall and castle, is *at present the residence of the Bishop of St. David's*, and is governed by a bailiff, 2 aldermen, and 12 common council, hath the privilege of sending a burgess to Parliament, and enjoys three markets weekly, on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and 3 fairs annually, viz., Midsomer day, 29th of August, and the 5th of November, is honoured by giving title of Earl to his grace James, Duke of Ormonde, and hath several good inns, as the Deer, Ragged Staff, King's Head, &c. [The road south is then described past Capel Taff Vechan to Ponstucketh Bridge] and enter Glamorganshire leaving Morlesh Castle on your right crossing the Tavy again, whence little occurs but passing over several great hills and large vales and by several dispersed houses [meaning perhaps Merthyr Tydfil and Dowlais] and so by Carfilly Castle to Cardiff.

"The road from Monmouth to Llanbeder in Cardiganshire, [described from Monmouth to Abergaveny (vulgo Abergeny)]" enter Brecknockshire passing through a village called Llangrenay (Llangroyne) where over a wooden bridg you cross the river Grenay and enter Crecowel a small town yet hath for its government a bailif and two burgesses, enjoys a small market on Mondays and three fairs annually, viz., May Day, St. Thomas, and St. Laurence. Numbers about 100 houses and hath an indifferent inn The White Lyon [Crickhowell bridge is not marked on the plate, but there is a wooden bridge over a brook probably Pont bryn hust over the Rhiangolch], you pass by some scattering houses on the road and leave Llanihangle y combdy [Cwmdu] on the right and by some houses on the road belonging to it called Tretowre, pass through a disunited village seated on an eminence called Bwlch in which is the Port Cullice Inn of good accommodation, whence a straight way leads through Llansaintfraed, Castro, [Penkelly] and Llanhamich all small villages to Brecon.



“At the end of the town over a stone bridg of 7 arches you cross the river Usk and pass by several discontinued houses leaving St. David’s Church on the left [the Tarell bridge is marked stone] and are conveyed to a stone bridge of 5 arches over the Usk where you enter Redbrue [Rhyd y briw], a small village, and leave Defynock Church about a mile on the left, you a third time cross the Usk [wood bridge over Usk] and cross it again when you pass through Trecastle, a small village with an inn in it, then ascending Castle Fluch hill a straight and open way [heath on both sides] leads you to Carmarthenshire.

“The road from ‘Prestaine to Carmarthen,’ plate 84 (Builth to Llandoverly) after Builth “over a wooden bridg you cross the river Verrar [Irfon] pass through Cavenabeth a small village [Cefn y bydd] whence by several disperst houses and by Mr. Price’s house on the right [? Cilmery] you come to Llanavar [Llanavan fechan] and to a wooden bridge called Ponteridgley over a brook, then passing again by some houses you descend and [6m. and 2f. from Builth] leave Mr. Lloyd’s house on the right and crossing two or three small brooks by some houses on the left ascend a hill of 9 furlongs, whence a straight open way sprinkled with houses brings you [12 miles from Builth] to a house on the right called Ludlou Vaugh where you enter Carmarthenshire.”

Distances seem to have been vague. Presteign to Carmarthen, the vulgar computation 46 miles; the dimensuration 61 miles. These three roads are the only ones in Brecknockshire planned by Ogilby, the main interest of this narrative being the description of towns at the date. The antiquity of bridges, chiefly in those days built of wood, while the want of record of Merthyr Tydfil and Dowlais in the south, and of Llangammarch and Llanwrtyd in the north indicates the advance of prosperity in the three centuries which have passed since Ogilby compiled his interesting book.





## CHAPTER VIII.

The Duke of Beaufort's Royal Progress—Extracts from Books of Orders of the Court of Quarter Sessions, Vol. 1—1686-1713 ; Vol. 2—1714-1742 ; Vol. 3—1742-1762 ; Vol. 4—1762-1787 ; Vol. 5—1787-1815.—Ironmasters.—Crawshay Pedigree.

AS early as the reign of King Edward IV., a few years after the eldest son had been created Prince of Wales, a Council was appointed who exercised authority in the Prince's name for the better government of Wales and the Marches. The Statutes relating to Wales in the reign of Henry VIII. were passed at the instigation of Lee, Bishop of Litchfield, at that time president of the Council. The institution of the Courts of Great Sessions relieved the Council of much of its business, civil and criminal, but it continued to sit at Ludlow, exercising a concurrent jurisdiction. The breaking out of the Civil War suspended its functions, and with the surrender at Ludlow Castle to the forces of Parliament on the 6th June, 1646, the Court of Council was virtually abolished. After the Restoration the Council was re-established under Lord Carbery as president, and on the 19th March, 1672, Henry, third Marquis of Worcester, was appointed Lord Carbery's successor. He was already Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, and now became Lord President of the Council and Lord Lieutenant of the Counties in Wales. On the 2nd December, 1682, he was advanced for his eminent services to the King since his restoration to the title of Duke of Beaufort.

### PROGRESS OF THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT THROUGH WALES.

Of this nobleman, Lord Macaulay writes: "His official tours through the extensive regions in which he represented the Majesty of the throne were scarcely inferior in pomp to royal progresses. His household at Badminton was regulated after the fashion of an earlier generation. The land to a great extent round his pleasure grounds was in his own hands; and the labourers who cultivated it formed part of his family. Nine tables were every day spread under his roof for two hundred persons. A crowd of gentlemen and pages were under the orders of the steward. The fame of the kitchen, the cellar, the kennel, and the stables was spread over all England. The gentry many miles round were proud of the magnificence of their great neighbour, and were at the same time charmed by his affability and good nature. He was a zealous Cavalier of the old school." The progress of such a man through Brecknock would no doubt be the great event within the county during the year 1684. In the train of the Duke travelled Thomas Dineley, who has left an interesting account of the progress.

"MONDAY, JULY 14, 1684.—The most noble and illustrious Prince Henry Duke of Beaufort, Marquis and Earl of Worcester, Baron Herbert of Raglan, Chepstow, and Gower, Lord President of Wales, Lord Lieutenant of the Counties of Gloucester, Hereford, and Monmouth, etc., Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, began his progress towards the general visitation of his commands in the Principality of Wales."

On THURSDAY, JULY 17, the Duke arrived at Ludlow, where an account is given of his cavalcade: "Towards the evening of July 17, His Grace was met about a mile short of Ludlow by the Ludlow officers of his presidency. On his approach the mace was shouldered, upon which all the officers with those others belonging to Ludlow Castle and of his Grace's retinue and family became uncovered and fell into their places two and two. The inhabitants of Ludlow lining the road and avenue to the town on both sides. The order wherein his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, Lord President of Wales, in solemn manner, made his entry into Ludlow was thus—

"First. The Quarter-master for the Progress.

2. Four sumpture men in livery well mounted and leading their bagge covered with fair sumpture cloaths of fine blue cloth diversified and embroidered with the coat of arms of his Grace.
3. Three helpers belonging to the stables, in livery, leading horses to supply accidents and defect of the 'coach cavalry.'
4. His Grace's Gentleman of the Horse, well mounted and equipped.



5. Six pages in rich liveries following him two and two.
6. Seven grooms in livery, each with a led horse comparisoned.
7. His Grace's four trumpeters in very rich coats, having for body his Grace's cypher in gold under a ducal crown on their backs and breasts, each with a silver trumpet with gold and silver strings and tassels, and crimsoned flowered damask banners embroidered with the coat of arms of his Grace, etc.
8. The Lieutenant Colonel of the Militia of the County of Wilts, who led the cavalcade of his Grace's gentlemen, officers, and servants of his family.
9. Two gentlemen at large (one of whom we may expect was Mr Thomas Dineley).
10. The Yeomen of his Grace's wine cellar, and the Groom of the Chamber, 'in a breast.'
11. The Cooks.
12. The Master of Music, and the Harper to his Grace.
13. The Mareschall or Farrier of the Progress.
14. The Clerk of the Kitchen and another.
15. Captain Spalding and the Rev. his Grace's Chaplain.
16. The Steward of the House and Steward outward.
17. The Secretary and Solicitor.
18. Mr Lockwood and Mons. Claud of his Grace's Chamber.
19. Muster Master of Gloucester and the Governor of Chepstow Castle.
20. The Sergeant with the Mace.
21. Officers White Rod and Pursuivants.
22. HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT AND LORD PRESIDENT OF WALES HIMSELF IN GLORIOUS EQUIPPAGE.
23. The Right Hon. Charles Earl of Worcester, the High Sheriff of Salop, and a great number of gentlemen.

These were followed by his Grace's chariot and two coaches and six horses, wherein was her Grace the Lady Duchess of Beaufort, the Countess of Worcester, the most noble ladies her daughters, their women, and a great retinue.

How they were nobly entertained at Ludlow, and the progress made through North Wales is beyond our purpose, until on TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH, having crossed the Wye at Whitney Ford (no bridge then) in his chariot, His Grace was received by the High Sheriff, gentlemen, and county troop of Brecon, who first conducted him to the Haye, a market and castle town in Brecknockshire, where his Grace and company dined, a very handsome entertainment having been provided at the Castle.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, in the evening, the Duke of Beaufort came to Brecknock, accompanied by a great number of gentlemen besides his own attendants, and the Militia horse of this county, finding a guard made by the foot on both sides of the way from the town gate, where the Bayley, Colonel Jefferies, the Town Clerk, the rest of the Town Council, magistrates, and officers of the Town, were ready in their robes of magistracy to receive him to the house of the said Colonel Jefferies, called the Priory at Brecknock, at which place his Grace lay two nights, both himself and company and retinue being delicately entertained. At the following day, AUGUST 6TH, the Earl of Worcester arrived from Troy, his seat in Monmouthshire; again there is a function and feasting as before, and the company are led to the Town Hall, where his Grace, the Earl of Worcester, Sir John Talbot, and other persons of quality were made Freemen.

On WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH, His Grace the Duke of Beaufort accompanied by the Earl of Worcester and other persons of quality, took a view of the Militia of this county in a meadow near the Town, where they were drawn up to exercise, 'and made severall close and laudable firing.' It consisted of one troop, and five companies of foot with green colours flying. The foot were clad with new hatts, blew cassacks, white sashes edged with blew worsted fringe, broad buff coloured shoulder belts, and red yarn stockings. The horse appeared well mounted, with buff coats, carbines, pistolls; back, breast, and pott (steel armour and helmet perhaps), bridles, and collars, huisses with their cloaks strapped behind them. With officers at the head of both in good equipage.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1684, the Duke of Beaufort parted from Colonel Jefferies, well satisfied with the good order he found the Militia in, both horse and foot of this county; and with his reception, not only there but in the Town of Brecknock, "which were very noble." He was conducted to the confines of the county by the High Sheriff and gentry and Militia troop, and in ye road two miles from hence in the highway His Grace's coach was stayed with a neat banquet of sweetmeats and wine presented by Daniel Williams, of Penpont, Esquire, after which his Grace being come to



the edge of Carmarthenshire the Brecknockshire troop was relieved by the High Sheriff, gentry, and Militia troop of that county; and with the Brecknock troop we too returned into our own county.

Farewell, Your Grace! And as we ride back to Brecon we doubtless tell each other how well we should like to serve under so noble a commander, as indeed we do serve before a year is out, when occasion arises for His Grace to do once more loyal service to his Sovereign.

#### BOOK OF ORDERS OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—VOL. 1 : 1686—1713.

The first volume of the Orders of Quarter Sessions covers the period from A.D. 1686 to October, 1713 (from the second year of King James II. to the 12th of the reign of Queen Anne). The headings are in Latin with abbreviations difficult to read. The year is given as that of the Sovereign with these exceptions: the date at commencement being given as 1686, the date 1702 and 1710 are written in figures, but the number of Sessions between do not seem to tally. From this cause the present chapter may be in error as much as a year in some statements. There were few adjournments of the Court ("adjournamentum" is the word used, which speaks well for the inventive genius of the clerk).

The year before the commencement of the Record, 1685, is the date of the accession of King James II. He had not ascended the throne without opposition; the Duke of Monmouth endeavoured to raise the South Western counties of England in support of his own pretensions to the Crown. While a wanderer on the Continent in early life, Charles II. had met at the Hague, Lucy Walters, a Welsh girl of great beauty; she became his mistress, and in 1649 gave birth to a son. After the Restoration, this son, now grown to man's estate, appeared at Whitehall, where he was acknowledged by the King, with whom he became a great favourite; amongst other honours he had the Dukedom of Monmouth conferred upon him. Many thought that Charles had been married to Lucy Walters, and that, if all had their rights, Monmouth would have been Prince of Wales and heir to the throne of England.

On the accession of James II. Monmouth landed at Lyme on the 11th June with a small following; the populace accepting him as the champion of the Protestant religion and the heir of England, and flocked to his standard. At Taunton he was received with transports of joy, the people of Bridgwater furnished him with money, and he assumed the royal title and marched upon Bristol. At Bristol, Henry Duke of Beaufort was in arms. He had, as we have seen, inspected the Militia of the district under his command in 1684, and at this crisis he used his whole influence in support of the Crown; with the trained bands of Gloucester and other levies he occupied Bristol.

Monmouth was encamped only five miles from the town, when the garrison was reinforced by the King's life guards and the siege was abandoned. On the 20th of June the forces of the King gained a decisive victory at Sedgmoor near Bridgwater; on the 6th July Monmouth was captured and beheaded on Tower Hill.

#### BRECONSHIRE MILITIA, AND WORK OF JUSTICES.

In the Army of the Duke of Beaufort there fought at Bristol, and probably at Sedgmoor, some of the Militia he had reviewed at Brecon in the preceding August; for in April, 1686, the justices ordered that the maimed soldiers for this county should at the next Sessions appear and give in their several certificates whereby they are qualified to receive pensions; and that no person should be added to the list of maimed soldiers until his certificate be examined. In January, 1687, it was further ordered that the moneys raised upon the inhabitants of this county towards the charge of the soldiers who went to Bristol in order to suppress the late rebellion be forthwith accounted for. It would appear from this that we may conclude the character of the old soldier was much the same then as in other ages, and that the certificate of identity was a not unnecessary precaution.

The chief work of the justices would appear to have been of a character now performed in Petty Sessions or by Boards of Guardians. Paupers were then, and till within the memory of man, maintained by the parishes, but by reason of defect in the law, poor people were not restrained from going from one parish to another, and thus endeavour to settle themselves in those parishes where there was the best stock, the largest commons or wastes to build cottages, and the most woods to burn and destroy, and when they had consumed it, then to another parish. We thus find it stated, "It shall be lawful by Justices warrant to remove such persons to the parish where they were last legally settled." This Act was passed in 1662, twenty-four years before the Record of Quarter Sessions opened, and marks the commencement of the law of settlement. Orders to a certain parish to maintain this or that pauper, and appeals arising out of these orders, formed no inconsiderable part of the work of Justices in Sessions.



Orders in bastardy, now for a long time relegated to Petty Sessions, were then and till the 4th year of King William IV., issued at the Quarter Sessions. The Act 18 Elizabeth, ch. 3, "Concerning bastards, born out of lawful matrimony (an offence against God's law and man's law), the said bastards being now left at the charges of the parish where they be born, to the great burden of the said parish," indicates pretty clearly that the enactment that these unwelcome strangers shall be supported by the putative father, and for the punishment of the erring parents, was dictated as much by desire for the economic welfare of the parish as with the object of improvement in morals. It is a little startling to find it "ordered that Margaret Rods now in the house of correction and mother of a bastard child be publicly whipt on Saturday next at Brecon in the market time," but this is the first year of the Record, and as it does not recur, let us hope that public opinion considered the chastisement over-severe.

Whipping was a punishment frequently awarded. An offender found guilty of sheep-stealing is ordered to be whipped; for a like offence a woman is condemned to be whipped next market day from the Gaol to the East Gate at Brecon, much to the delight probably of the younger inhabitants of the borough. John and Ann Thomas, found guilty of stealing one sheep value 12d. are ordered to be whipped at Brecon and Crickhowell. There is an order, too, that forty shillings be raised for an instrument for "branding felons on the cheek."

#### RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE.

During the Reformation and the revolution that followed it, religious intolerance was rife. Roman persecuted Protestant and Protestant persecuted Roman; Puritan ousted Churchman, and Churchman was embittered against Nonconformist. After the Restoration, King Charles II. made several attempts to grant toleration, but as these endeavours were supposed by Parliament to spring from a desire to favour Roman Catholics, they uniformly failed. In Brecknockshire in 1686, Maud Howel and Eleanor Morgan were cited as Dissenters in absenting themselves from Church for three Sundays; a somewhat rigorous definition of conformity which might convict many good Churchmen at the present day. No harm, however, seems to have happened to Maud and Eleanor. "Here endeth the reign of King James the Second," a note which helps us with our dates.

When King James the Second, partly for political and partly for religious causes, was in 1688 expelled the throne, the claim of Dissenters to a milder treatment could not well be disregarded by the monarch they had helped to elevate. Accordingly the Toleration Act bestowed on all but Roman Catholics and Unitarians, full liberty of worship upon taking the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and certifying their places of worship to the Justices of the Peace.

In 1692 the dwelling house of Rees Haidd, in the parish of Llanddew, was presented as a meeting house wherein Protestant Dissenters may exercise their religion. Similar entries become frequent as the Volume proceeds. In 1695, H. Powell, a Protestant Dissenting minister, in open Court took the oaths and declarations prescribed to exempt him from the penalty of the costume laws.

#### SALMON LAWS.

It may be worth mentioning that Henry Jasper having been imprisoned by the Crickhowell magistrates for taking twenty young salmon out of season, was discharged by Quarter Sessions, his conviction being erroneous and contrary to law.

#### HIGH SHERIFF FINED.

A more grievous offender was Sir Rowland Gwynne, High Sheriff, for non-return of the writ to him delivered for holding the Sessions in July, 1688. He was fined £300, being thrice called to give his attendance to the Court, and not appearing by himself or deputy, he was further fined £700.

#### BRIDGES.

The repair of bridges has ever been a serious cost in this county of mountain torrents. Towards the end of the 17th century many bridges needed repair at every Quarter Sessions. They were constantly referred to as being in a ruinous condition; and were repaired chiefly at the cost of the various districts, the custom being to contract with a carpenter to keep the bridge in repair for a number of years. The bridges were almost universally constructed of wood. In October, 1703, it was ordered that all public bridges on common roads (which seems to mean main roads) be in future repaired by the inhabitants of the whole county, and that the justices at the next Sessions do bring in a list of bridges in their respective hundreds, a list of which would be of interest if still in existence. Bridges over smaller streams continued to be repaired by the localities. As a first fruit of the new legislation, Crickhowell bridge, then ruinous, was ordered to be rebuilt with stone piers



and arches for £400 at the expense of the county, January, 1706. The finger posts, which some of us may remember in a decayed condition, were in 1707 erected at the cost of the parishes.

#### A NEW HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This was built in the year 1687 at a cost of £200 "within the walls of the town of Brecon," the old building being sold to the best advantage. In 1693 the Burgesses of Brecon, having no house of correction, the justices of the county arranged for the borough prisoners to be sent to the county prison; the Borough apparently contributing one twenty-fifth part of the cost of construction and annual maintenance.

#### SHIRE HALL.

The inhabitants of the county on the other hand used as Shire Hall a building belonging to the Borough, and there held the Quarter Sessions. The County contributed a sum of ten pounds thereto in July, 1706.

#### ORDERS OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—VOL. 2: 1714 (JAN.)—1742.

The Second Volume of the Orders of Quarter Sessions commences with October, 1714 (not 1713 as the book is labelled). There seems to be a year missing. During that time Queen Anne had passed away on August 1, 1714, and George First, Elector of Hanover, great grandson of James First of England, ascended the throne. The greater affairs of the nation had left but little trace in the county annals, the Justices pursued the even tenor of their way, concerning themselves with roads and bridges, poor law appeals, and the like, the bulk of which became uninteresting, even to those most concerned with the county.

Bridges were still generally built of wood, liable to overthrow and ruin. In 1716 a hundred pounds was levied on the inhabitants of the county for the repair of that part of Builth bridge which lies within the county, and a contract was entered into with Marmaduke Prothero, who was to keep it in repair for seven years, unless it be carried away by the violence of flakes of ice. A committee was appointed in October, 1716, to consider the methods proper for securing "such part of this bridge as lies in this county" against the violence of any flakes of ice.

It will be clear from this and similar entries, that, the centre of the Wye being the boundary between the counties of Brecknock and Radnor, the responsibility of either county ends at the "middle of the thread of water." To anyone of sense it will be further apparent that it was but little use to protect the Brecknock half only from disaster, the one half being of little good to either county if the other half be carried away. A more reasonable course was adopted at Newbridge, where a committee of Brecknock justices met a committee from Radnor as to the repairs of the bridge; the Court having ordered that the cost of repairing that part of the bridge which lies within this county shall be raised by rate, the Committees agree that the repairs shall be put into the hands of one man, a moiety of his expenses being paid by either county. When a whole bridge was ruinous this device answered, but it required careful supervision; and in April, 1731—a presentment having been made that New-bridge over Wye "requires repair"—it is quashed as too general. The presentment did not state which end of the bridge needed repair, and the responsibility of this county extended only so far as "the end of the bridge which lies in this county, that is, to the middle thereof." As to bridges within the county, and wholly repairable by it, inconveniences arose by reason of delay, and it was therefore ordered in April, 1728, "that it shall be lawful for any two justices to employ workmen to cure the defects and account to Sessions."

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUNS FOR SPORT.

Guns, applied to sport, originated in the last part of the 17th century. Flint locks were brought into England in the reign of King William the Third, and became popular. This may have been the reason why lords of the various manors appointed as gamekeepers gentlemen anxious to enjoy the privilege of sporting. In Builth Manor, 1722, David Evans of Llanlleonfel, gentleman, procured a deputation under the hand of Marmaduke Gwynne, Esquire, lord of the manor, for hunting within the said manor, and appointing him gamekeeper. William Vaughan was appointed for the Manor of Dinas. Similar appointments were made for Gwenddwr, Crickhowell, and Tretower, and for various manors throughout the county.

Servants' wages seemed to have been limited by law. In 1733 an assessment was ordered for the better regulating the wages of servants, artificers, workmen, and labourers in husbandry, to be filed in the Court; and further ordered that a competent number be printed and distributed throughout the county, that all persons concerned therein may the better know and observe the contents.

#### THE CRIMINAL LAW.

Criminal law was still administered with great severity. In 1619 King James I. had directed that a hundred dissolute persons should be sent to Virginia. A more systematic development of



transportation took place in 1718, when an Act was passed by which offenders who had escaped the death penalty were handed over to contractors, who engaged to transport them to the American Colonies. These contractors were invested with a property in the labour of convicts for a term of years, which right they frequently sold.

On the prosecution of the County of Brecknock in 1735, Stephen Perry and Cecil Henniger, "gentlemen," were to be tried in the Court of Exchequer at Westminster, for breaking their bond, and not transporting the bodies of certain felons as they had contracted to do. Two years later Stephen Perry, of Bristol, was again in default, for not transporting Elizabeth Watkins and two other felons "to merchant, some part of His Majesty's plantations in America." He made proposals for accommodating the affair in an amicable manner; proceedings were stopped, and the bond cancelled, Stephen to pay all costs. He undertook to transport the felons named in the bond at his own expense; or prosecute them for their escapes, so as they or any of them shall hereafter be apprehended. Likewise he would receive from the county all such felons as should hereafter be ordered for transportation for the space of seven years, the inhabitants of the said county paying three pounds and three shillings for each felon, and delivering them at the city of Bristol without any charge or expense whatever to the said Stephen Perry. From which we gather that Stephen Perry was learning the value of convict labour, and may perhaps surmise that Elizabeth Watkins, or one of her two friends, had made it better worth Perry's while to connive at their escape than to transport them beyond the seas. For what offences was this tremendous punishment of seven years' slavery, at some place unspecified in America, awarded in the year 1738? Here is an instance: John Jones and Thomas Jones, indicted for stealing one black cock and three hens, were ordered to be severally transported for the space of seven years; and to carry this sentence out, it was further ordered that the sum of forty pounds be levied upon the inhabitants of the county for the charges and expenses of removing the several bodies of John and Thomas Jones, and two others, from the gaol to Bristol, and thence transporting them. Truly this cock and three hens were most costly!

In 1734, and afterwards, the headings of the Record are in English; hitherto they are in Latin. In 1738 the Records were kept in presses lying in the outward room of the Guildhall at Brecon.

Houses were still licensed for the worship of Nonconformist bodies: Notably three houses at Hay for Quakers. The Community of Friends still had a place of worship at Hay in 1851, with sittings for 40 persons, but on Test Sunday only three persons attended.

Ministers still appeared in Court to take the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy and to sign the articles of religion, except half of No. 20, 24, 25, 26, as by law required.

#### RECORDS OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—VOL. 3: 1742—1762.

During the period covered by the third volume of Quarter Sessions, the years are noted in plain characters at the Easter Sessions each year; that being probably then as now the commencement of the financial year. Later in the book, the numbering commences with January. Vol. 3 has less of interest than the preceding volumes. Appeals against rating and removals, and the ordinary routine work, of which the interest has long passed away, fills much of the book. King George the Second was in the second year of his reign.

Crime consisted of assaults and thieving; assaults were lightly punished with a fine of at most a few shillings, but petty larceny was visited with savage severity. In 1751 Mary Havard, guilty of petty larceny, was ordered by the Court "that she be stript naked from the waist upward, and then tyed to and whipped so naked at a cart's tail from the goal (this is how the word is always spelled) to Usk Bridge within the town of Brecon, and from thence back again to the goal on Saturday next between the hours of twelve and one." In 1756 Rachel Richards was treated in the same way "at the rising of the Court," possibly that their worships might see the fun!

#### DEBTORS IN PRISON.

In 1744, the Sexton of the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist produced his account of fees due "for the buriall of the corps of several poor debtors, who lately died of a malignant fever in the goal." He was paid eight shillings due to him and the minister. Doubts, let us hope, were creeping into the public mind whether there was much use in imprisoning a poor debtor till he died of malignant fever, for we find under the head of "Discharge of insolvent debtors out of ye goal pursuant to ye late Act," that Roger Prosser, a poor prisoner for debt, was brought into Court by the "Goaler" in order to have the benefit of an Act of Parliament for the relief of insolvent debtors: and as he had given due notice to his creditors, with a schedule of his effects, and owes no one creditor more than two hundred pounds, he was discharged. And so he and others again breathed the air free men, just about the time that the Sexton was being paid eight shillings on account of the effect of the fever.



The old wooden bridges continued to give trouble. In 1744, the overseer of the repairs of Builth Bridge undertook to pay thirty shillings to certain helpful people for their assistance in saving many pieces of the old timber of Wye Bridge from being carried away by the late floods. Crickhowell Bridge had been rebuilt of stone, for two masons were employed to repair it. Even stone bridges had their inconveniences, as we find it recorded that the coping stones of the side walls (in 1748) "had been thrown down by idle and disorderly persons for want of the said stones being cramp with iron," which it was thought would prevent the mischief, and the stones were forthwith cramp with substantial iron cramps, as may be seen to this day. A weir, too, had been constructed under the bridge to protect the work.

#### THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

In the spring of 1750 an outbreak of cattle distemper seemed to have been warded off by the wise action of the Court. The complaint, which had raged amongst the horned cattle in divers parts of the kingdom, had also broken out in the counties of Salop and Montgomery: the Court therefore ordered that "no person whatsoever shall presume to drive cattle from Salop, Montgomery, or Radnor into the county, and that no fair or market for the sale of cattle shall be held within the county without proper certificate as to the health of the cattle." Further, "that the constables of the parishes adjoining the River Wye do hinder the driving of cattle over the bridges and fords," which the parish officers were required to watch. Before the rising of the Court additional inspectors were appointed to aid the constables, and the justices adjourned to an early date to take further counsel on the matter. The stopping of the fairs was probably necessary, but was certainly unpopular, so at the adjourned meeting in February, the Court considered that fairs held under proper restrictions would not be attended with ill effects, and the order was rescinded, so that Talgarth fair on the 1st of March may be held, only for the sale of cattle from within the county; the order against the importation from the northern counties remained in force. The relaxed order as to fairs was not viewed with favour in Monmouth. On the 11th June the Court observed with much concern an order of the Monmouth Justices prohibiting the importation of horned cattle from Gloucester, Hereford, or Brecknock, which, so far as Brecknock was concerned, seemed founded on an idle rumour of infectious disease amongst the horned cattle. So the Court thought it well to certify and declare that there was no such disease in the county, nor within forty miles of it. This is the last item dealing with the matter, so that it is hoped our ancestors were saved from the ravages of cattle plague, and that concord was restored between them and their neighbours in Monmouth.

#### ORDERS OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—VOL. 4: 1762–1787.

The Fourth Volume of the Orders of Quarter Sessions commences in the second year of the reign of King George III. Appeals against rating and orders of removal were far more common than in subsequent times, when the work of Quarter Sessions had been eased by Petty Sessions and Boards of Guardians. The management of roads and bridges, the authorisation of various houses for Protestant Dissenters to hold their religious worship in, the release of poor debtors under a recent Act, and criminal justice constituted the main work of the Court.

In 1769, the highways near Builth were in a state of great dilapidation [from which, it may also be added, some of them have not yet recovered]. Howell Gwynne, Esq., a justice, reported from his own view, that the high roads from Rhayader to Brecon, through the parish of Gwarafog and Llanfechan, and from Merthyr Cynog to Upper Chapel, and other roads in the neighbourhood, "be foundeours," and too narrow, and not safe for carriages to pass and repass, and should be amended by the inhabitants of the parishes in which they were situated.

#### ANDREW MAUND, BUILDER.

The rebuilding of bridges with stone continued. The "new" bridge, Llangynider, (now considered a most ancient and inconvenient structure), was repaired in 1767. Even then it was a stone fabric with a cobble roadway, in that year replaced with gravel. Usk Bridge in the town of Brecknock, was in 1772 reported to be ruinous, and to be repaired by the Town and County. The following year, Llangrwyne Bridge was to be rebuilt under the inspection of Andrew Maund, *carpenter*, who was to have twenty guineas for his trouble. Andrew Maund was an enterprising man; he will be frequently heard of, and his descendant in our own time has been High Sheriff of the County. The Grwyne Bridge, apparently of stone abutments, with a wooden framework between the pillars to support the road, was entrusted to Joshua Morgan; but as he failed to give security for the completion of the contract, Andrew Maund of Brecon undertook the work. This was an important work of stone, and it was directed that the foundations should, if possible, be sunk to the rock. The bridge was to be of three arches, with eighteen feet of roadway, protected by parapets of four



feet; the middle arch to be thirty-five feet in span, the two others twenty-five. Before this, no such careful specification is to be found in the records. The cost was to be £185. In 1767 the bridges generally were placed in charge of the justices acting within the limits of the several bridges, who were to contract with workmen for repairs.

## CLERKS OF MARKETS APPOINTED.

In 1770, a Clerk of the Markets was appointed in each of the towns of Brecon, Builth, and Hay; the clerk of Hay being Dougall MacGibbon, who hardly sounds a native of the county. Their duty was to take the price of corn and grain and make returns to His Majesty's treasury, "agreeable" to the late Act of Parliament. For this it was agreed to pay them two shillings for each return, but of this the county repented, and finally agreed to pay them one shilling a week and one and sixpence for each return. In 1717, the Court ordered that the Winchester measure of eight gallons to the bushel, and no other, be used in the selling and buying of corn. We notice that it was established to the satisfaction of the Court that Sophia Jones, widow, accidentally lost 650 bushels of malt for which she had paid duty. She asked for and received back £32 10s. 0d. from His Majesty's Officer of Excise. We cannot help wondering how she could manage to lose so bulky a property.

In 1771, the Shire Hall being shortly to be taken down and rebuilt, the Clerk of the Peace was to fit up the hall at the College for the Great Sessions of the County. In 1779, twenty guineas were paid to Thomas Longfellow, innkeeper, for the use of the College Hall for four Sessions, so the work may then have been in progress; and as in the same year John Williams was paid thirty-five shillings for repairing windows of the hall during the time the Great Sessions were there held, it may be concluded that the work was then completed and the Justices back in their old Court.

In the autumn of 1778, it was decided to rebuild the County Gaol and house of correction. The plans and estimates were prepared by Mr Andrew Maund, and a contractor advertised for in the Hereford and Gloucester Journals (no Brecon paper being then in existence), apparently without success, as in January of the following year the building of the new gaol near Tarrall Bridge was undertaken by Mr Maund for £500 and the old gaol, which was conveyed to him. The work was to be finished by September, 1780. The work was duly completed, and in May, 1781, the prisoners were moved into the new Gaol.

## REBELLION IN THE PRISON.

The deficiencies of the old Gaol seem to have given rise to great laxity of discipline. In 1769, Rees Davies, confined for several felonies and burglaries, was in "great danger of his life from the other prisoners of the said gaol," and in consequence removed to other custody. Even in the new building the arrangements were very different from those which would have been tolerated a century later. In 1785 it was ordered that the iron frames be taken down from the walls of the gaol, put up for public sale, and that the money arising therefrom be laid out in purchasing strong iron chains for fixing to the bedsteads in the cells of the gaol for the better securing the prisoners at night. In 1775 it is curious to notice that a woman, Mrs Magdalen Williams, acted as gaoler.

## SEVERE PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINALS.

Criminal sentences continued to be entirely out of harmony with the sentiments which prevail in the 19th century. Assaults were common, but were leniently treated, the common entry being "the parties having made up matters, the defendant was discharged on payment of a sixpence fine." Vagrancy was more seriously dealt with; "James Tompkyns, a vagrant, is ordered to be whipped and carried to the next county on his way to Ledbury." Flogging was still the ordinary punishment for larceny, the sentences culminating in ferocious brutality during the Epiphany Sessions, 1787, when it was ordered "that David Howell be whipped at the cart's tail, to receive sixty lashes, and one minute to expire between every lash, on Saturday next at noon day before the Shire Hall, and to be confined to hard labour in the house of correction for twelve months, and to be whipped in like manner the Saturday se'nnight before the expiration of his confinement." It should be noted that the first whipping was on January 13, when he was in the depth of winter to be kept naked in the street and tortured for an hour! David Charles was awarded a like punishment, except that he was to be whipped the Saturday before and after David Howell. Margaret Thomas was to be publicly whipped in like manner on Saturday three weeks, with a like term of imprisonment. Joan Richards was to be publicly whipped on Saturday month, to be confined to hard labour for twelve months, and to be whipped again the Saturday month before the expiration of her sentence. Elizabeth Hughes was sent to hard labour for six months, and to be publicly whipped the Saturday before her release. By a careful arrangement of dates it is managed that in this one batch of cases this disgusting spectacle was given to the people of Brecon on eight several



market-days within a period of twelve months. Perhaps some feeling of commiseration crept into the heart of the executioner, for on one occasion he was enjoined that the criminal who had been condemned for a paltry theft was to be whipped for half an hour "until his back be bloody." At the Easter Sessions immediately following the bloody assize just quoted, Anne Stole, convicted of stealing a surplice, was condemned to be transported for seven years to one of His Majesty's Settlements abroad. Esther, the wife of John Jones, for stealing a sheepskin; Magdalen, wife of Randal Lewis, for stealing mutton; and David Lewis, for stealing a ploughshare, were each and all of them sent from their kin into slavery in like manner! "That it may please Thee to bless and keep the magistrates, giving them grace to execute justice—We beseech Thee to hear us—Good Lord!"

#### RECORDS OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—VOL. 5: 1787—1815.

During the earlier years of the period contained in this Volume savage punishments were still, though not so frequently, inflicted. Joseph Towers, for an act of vagrancy, was flogged in gaol, and passed to the town of Howdon in Yorkshire. Richard Rees, for larceny, was flogged at the cart's tail, receiving 60 strokes with the *cat o'nine tails*; this is the first notice in the Records of such an instrument. Daniel James for pretending to exercise conjuration, was to be imprisoned for twelve months, and within that time was to stand four times for an hour in the pillory before the Shire Hall. At the same Sessions, Jane Griffiths, for petty larceny, was condemned to solitary confinement with hard labour for a term of three years (a punishment so severe that it is now never inflicted, as endangering life). All these sentences were in 1787–8–9; but the people of Brecon were no longer treated to the brutal spectacle of women publicly flogged, and the occasions on which they were sentenced to private whipping in gaol were now comparatively few. The mode of providing for the safety of prisoners was by chaining together. Mr Thomas Powell, ironmonger, was ordered to send to Birmingham for twelve handcuffs for the use of the gaol, and to make a large iron chain to link the prisoners together upon occasion; another worker in iron was bidden to make six pairs of irons for the gaol. Transportation was still an ordinary punishment. The convict's destination was, however, settled by the King in Council, not it is feared out of any consideration for the unfortunate offenders, but because, on the revolt of the American Colonies, convict establishments in America were no longer available. Margaret Jenkins was sentenced at Brecon in 1795 to seven years' transportation to Botany Bay (discovered in 1770 by Captain Cook), where Commodore Phillips, on the American revolt in 1787, had been commissioned to form a penal settlement. Finding on his arrival that the locality was ill suited for the purpose, the Commodore removed northwards towards the site of the present city of Sydney, Australia, transportation to which Colony was abolished in 1840.

#### THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION.

Transportation was an expensive punishment, and we gather from the Records that Thomas Longfellow, the innkeeper, was paid £37 16s. 0d. for his coach; the gaoler presented a bill for £26 13s. 0d. for expenses on the road, and a further £2 10s. 0d. for firearms to guard them. Such reasons, and the increasing difficulty of transportation, may have caused the justices to seek other modes for disposing of the prisoners. In 1790 the Clerk of the Peace is ordered to write to the regulating Captain at Haverfordwest informing him that there are now in the gaol four able bodied men fit to serve His Majesty (presumably in the Navy). Prison discipline was still unsatisfactory, and we find that in 1791 the grate of the outer door of the gaol is stopped up because the prisoners are abusive to travellers passing by. Some years later, in 1805, the gaol was presented by the Grand Jury as insecure, and a wall was erected to surround the gaol and the courts thereof. More care than aforetime was taken for the prisoners, and in 1812 Visiting Justices were appointed, apparently for the first time, and orders now and again appear on the Records as to improved diet for them, and an entry, where thirty horse loads of coal were ordered for their use during the inclemency of the weather, indicates the difficulties of transit before the days of canal and railroad.

The times being dealt with were exciting, for 1789 is the date of the French Revolution. Nelson's victory on the Nile was in 1798. Malta was acquired by conquest in the following year. In 1804 Buonaparte became Emperor of the French; in 1805 Nelson fell at Trafalgar, and the wars against Buonaparte lasted from 1803 till the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The glare of battle shone even so far as Brecon, and may account for the letter, already quoted, addressed to the Captain at Haverfordwest. The duty of supplying men for the Navy had been thrown upon the counties and parishes; and in 1795 the Justices ordered that eight able bodied men be forthwith raised to supply the deficiencies of men directed by Parliament to be enrolled. The sum of twenty guineas was to be paid to each Volunteer out of the two hundred and twenty-three pounds then in the



hands of the Treasurer, being the amount of the fines paid by the several parish officers under the said Act. A similar obligation had by Act of Parliament been laid on the parishes to supply Militia men, and in 1803, now that we were at war with Buonaparte, the law was strictly enforced. Twelve pounds were paid to the churchwardens of Traianglas who had provided a man to serve as a private in place of David Watkins, promoted to be corporal. Other parishes received similar sums, which however did not amount to half the money usually paid for a substitute. The Militia was far from popular. Some of our men had enlisted in Anstruther's Regiment, as they thought under a guarantee that they were not to serve out of Britain, but they had been sent abroad; but the county determined that this was not to happen again, if it were possible to prevent it.

#### THE RECRUITING LAWS.

Twenty pounds were levied on the parish of Llanfair in Builth for one private deficient for the said parish; on Llanafan the same; £40 on the parish of Llanwrthwl; £20 on Maesmynis, on Llanwrtyd, and Tyrabot; £40 on Llangammarch, which was two men short. Other amounts in the hundred of Builth. Similar sums in the hundreds of Pencelly and Devynock, Talgarth, Crickhowell, Merthyr, and Brecon. These orders are repeated again and again for many Sessions, and every parish in the county was repeatedly fined—a very grievous burden. But this was not all. The traders' carts were impressed for the carriage of baggage for the various regiments marching through the county: the Renfrew Militia from Builth to Llandovery, and on through Brecon to Abergavenny; the East Middlesex through the county via Brecon to Crickhowell; the Pembroke Militia from Brecon to Llandovery. The customary rate varied from sixpence to one shilling for carts of different sizes; but on account of the high prices of hay and oats, which had risen to war rates, an additional charge of 2d. to 4d. was allowed, the higher allowance being for a waggon with four horses, or a wain with six oxen, or four oxen and two horses. Incidentally we learn from these Records that a cart drawn by four horses would carry only fifteen hundred weight, from which may be guessed the state of the roads, and perhaps the size of the horses in use in the county in 1815.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF COUNTY BRIDGES.

The improvement in county bridges goes on steadily, and we find that Usk Bridge was reported as far too narrow and incommodious for travellers. In the spring of 1793, Thomas Edwards undertakes its improvement for £1,000, which the Justices considered fair; ultimately two small arches are added on the Llanfaes approach to render the ascent easier. A smith's shop near the west end of the bridge was removed, because it prevented the water running under the new arches, the smith, Richard Balcot by name, being compensated with four guineas. Edwards, as part of his contract, undertook to keep the bridge in repair for seven years, and in 1801 the bridge was again sadly in need of repair. Edwards was dead, and his widow raised a doubt whether the seven years had not ended also; but she finally pays £150 to conclude the contract. She appears to have been a shrewd lady, as the Justices at the next Sessions gave the contract to John Maund for £423. Crickhowell Bridge was widened and repaired in 1809, at a cost, including assumed maintenance for seven years, of £2,300, the work being undertaken by Mr Benjamin James, of Llangattock. The bridge had been destroyed by a great flood during the previous winter, and a temporary bridge erected. To complete the account of County Buildings during this period it should be noted that in 1813 Hay lock-up was built, and in the following year the old lock-up at Crickhowell.

During the eighteenth century the Government made strenuous efforts to promote the cultivation of flax. They were not successful, and in 1787 there were but 28 acres under cultivation throughout the whole of Wales. From 1788 onwards the experiment was tried on some farms in the neighbourhood of Hay. Mr Thomas Lloyd, flax-dresser, of Hay, exhibited his claim to the bounty on flax as provided by several Acts of Parliament: he received £9, which was duly refunded to the county from Imperial sources. The industry extended to Glasbury and Llanellieu, both in the neighbourhood of Hay. Entries were made till 1795, when the industry may have died out.

#### INTRODUCTION OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly Societies commenced in the middle of the 17th century. They did not become general until an Act of Parliament in 1793 recognised their existence and provided encouragements in various ways. The benefits offered were readily accepted by the Societies, and the vast number which speedily became enrolled, showed that the Act supplied a real want. These Societies were generally held in public houses, good fellowship being perhaps as notable a feature as the desire for provident assurance in sickness and old age. In the year following the passing of the Act, there were approved by the Court of Quarter Sessions the rules of a Friendly Society of tradesmen and others intended to be established at the Plough and Harrow in the borough of Talgarth, for the mutual relief of sick members, and a duplicate was lodged with the Clerk of the Peace. Four Societies were



established at Brecon, and one at Builth; and they soon became general throughout the county. Among them were at least three female provident societies at Coed Cymmer, Talgarth, Ystradgunlais, and Brecon; and from the title of one, "The Cock and Hen," in which Lady Morgan of Ruperra House interested herself, it would appear there were also benefit societies open to males and females.

#### FREEMASONRY IN THE COUNTY.

On Oct. 20, 1789, the Cambrian No. 542 Lodge of Freemasons was formed at the Swan Hotel in Brecon, and was enrolled on the records of the County. Theophilus Jones, the historian, was the first installed Master, and he held this office for several years. In the Minute book of the Lodge (very neatly copied from an old book into a new one by J. D. Perrott, Esq., J.P., of Aberystwith, who was at the time Secretary of the Lodge), there are blanks between April 23, 1804 and August 16, 1813, (when the Lodge bears the number 451 since March 19, 1792); 18th March, 1816 and March 12, 1819, when the Minutes of 1816 were confirmed, "the Worshipful Master not having summoned us to attend since that time; on 19th Sept., 1819, the number of the Lodge was 510. In 1855 the Brecknock Lodge No. 936 was established, the first meeting being held at the Castle Hotel, Brecon, on July 28. Subsequent meetings were held at the Swan, and the members subsequently built a lodge room adjoining the Castle Hotel and continued to hold meetings there until the alterations to the Castle buildings in 1895-6, when the Lodge was removed to Ruperra House in Wheat Street. Since December 1863 the Lodge has borne the number 651. At this time, 1900, there are about 50 members of the Brecknock Lodge, and the Lodges at Builth and Hay are off-shoots from the old Lodge at Brecknock.

#### LICENSING NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS, &c.

In 1791 the Nonconformist bodies appeared to have gathered strength. Besides private houses licensed for worship we now read of "Chapels" in the Records, and Ebenezer at Builth was licensed in that year: and two years later a building called the Chapel near Hay turnpike was licensed. In 1808, the following curious entry is to be found in the Records: "Ordered that David Evans be appointed preacher of the Baptists Meeting House in the Watergate in the town of Brecon; it appearing to the Court no other preacher officiating in it at this time." In 1813 the Court ordered a list to be made of dissenting ministers licensed since the year 1790, and the Meeting Houses for which they were appointed, a document which might have historical interest if still in existence.

In the matter of County administration it should be noted that the Records state that in 1797, Blaen Glyn Tawr was separated from Devynock; and in 1804 from Llanspyddyd are detached the hamlets of Penpont and Modrydd.

#### THE IRON MASTERS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

The revival of the iron trade during the 19th century has been the largest factor in the increased prosperity of the County of Brecknock. Its effects have spread far beyond the ironworkers themselves. High wages and an increased population have created demand for agricultural produce, and have necessitated the building of new towns, while the railway system, the original cause of the awakened industry, now adds to the comforts of life all through the county, and conveys thousands of visitors to the watering places of Builth, Llangammarch, and Llanwrtyd, towns always noted for their healing springs, but aforesaid only approachable with difficulty. The prosperity, thus diffused throughout the county, is most notable in those southern parishes within the immediate vicinity of the iron and coal industries.

Lower Ystradgunlais had in 1801 a population of 709 persons. During the century this has increased five times and stands in 1891 at 3,752 souls; Penderyn has doubled (from 730 to 1433); Vaynor has trebled, from 1063 to 3,057. Between 1801 and 1861 the population of Llangattock multiplied five times, from 1046 to 5759. The parish then included the town of Beaufort and part of Brynmawr; while Llanelly, the only remaining parish immediately affected by the trade, multiplied within the same period ten times, from a population of 937 at the commencement of the century to 9603 in the year 1861.

Little mention is made of the iron trade by Theophilus Jones. A furnace was erected at Hirwain in 1758 by Messrs. Mayberry and Wilkins. It was used for the purpose of smelting iron, charcoal being first used, and afterwards coal, the blast being supplied by a water wheel. About 1806 Messrs. Bonzer, Overton, and Oliver, who were then the proprietors, erected forges, a rolling mill, and a second furnace with a steam engine to supply the blast, and in 1809 they could turn out 100 tons of bar iron per week. The forges were partly supplied with pig iron from Aberdare



and Abernant. The mines raised by the Hirwaun Company were held under a long lease from the Marquis of Bute. These works afterwards became the property of Mr. Crawshay of Cyfarthfa

#### THE CRAWSHAYS.

Richard Crawshay, known as the Iron King, was the son of William Crawshay of Normanton. He was at the beginning of the 19th century carrying on the iron works of Cyfarthfa. His sister Susannah had married John Bailey of Wenham Priory, Suffolk. Richard Crawshay died on June 27th, 1810, leaving four children. William (afterwards of Caversham); Anne (who married in 1798 Mr. T. Franklen of Llanfihangel, Glamorgan); another daughter (who married a gentleman not connected with this district); and Charlotte (wife of Benjamin Hall of Hensall Castle, Glamorgan whose son was afterwards created a Baronet and finally Baron Llanover, and whose daughter is now the Hon. Mrs. Herbert of Llanover. Richard Crawshay connected with himself in business his son William, his son-in-law Benjamin Hall, and his nephew Joseph Bailey (son of his sister Susannah and John Bailey). On the death of the Iron King in 1811, he left the iron works at Cyfarthfa to his three above named relations. Shortly after, the partners separated, Cyfarthfa remaining with the Crawshay family, in whose occupation it has remained until the present day, the head of the family being William Crawshay, Esq., D.L., J.P., of Caversham Park, Reading, and Cyfarthfa Castle, Vaynor, the former being his residence.

#### THE BAILEYS.

Mr. Joseph Bailey took his brother Crawshay Bailey into partnership and entered upon the works of Nantyglo in the immediate neighbourhood of the County of Brecknock. These works were carried on by Joseph Bailey and Joseph Bailey, junior, of Easton Court, with varying but on the whole with great success until the death of Sir Joseph Bailey (who had been made a baronet). After his decease in 1858 they were continued by the surviving brother Crawshay Bailey and Mr. Henry Bailey until 1870, when they were sold to a limited company under the style of the Nantyglo and Blaina Iron and Coal Company. The Company have not continued the manufacture of iron, and have leased the coal to sub-tenants. The concern seems still to prosper, as the shares, with £62 paid, command a price of £95 in the market.

Beaufort Iron Works were founded by Jonathan Kendall and his brother Edward in 1779 with a 99 years' lease from the Duke of Beaufort of all the minerals in the parishes of Llangattock and Llanelly. They erected a furnace in Llangattock upon the borders of Monmouth, and called the place Beaufort, though the poor folk call it "Kendall" to this day. Mr. Joseph Latham joined the Kendalls as partner with one sixteenth share of the works. Jonathan Kendall died June 23, 1810, aged 39. In the year 1798 a second furnace was built, and soon after a forge. Jonathan Kendall married the aunt of Mr. W. H. West, to whom the writer is indebted for this information. On the death of Edward Kendall, the works became the property of his son Edward of Danypark; he married the widow of Mr. Bevan of Glanant, and her son by her first marriage succeeded Mr. Latham as manager of Beaufort. The works at Beaufort were sold to Messrs. J. and C. Bailey of Nantyglo. Mr. (afterwards Sir) Joseph Bailey and Mr. Bevan the younger, each married a daughter of Mr. Joseph Latham.

#### SIR BARTLE FRERE'S FAMILY.

In 1793 Messrs. Kendal sub-leased the minerals in Llanelly parish to Messrs. Frere, Cooke and Co. Of the family of Frere, and born at Great House, Llanelly, was Sir Bartle Frere, one of the great Indian administrators of the 19th Century, and of whose career some notes appear elsewhere in this work. The Llanelly works had been established on a small scale perhaps as early as 1600 by John or Richard Hanbury, son or grandson of the first Hanbury of Pontypool. The works of 1806 would manufacture about 100 tons of iron weekly and employed about 400 hands. The firm had then become Frere, Cooke, & Powell, and the brothers John and Launcelot Powell continued the works until the concern was wound up in the year 1861. Mr. Launcelot Powell resided at Brecon for many years, and died there at the age of 79, on the 4th of December, 1884; he lies buried in the Brecon Cemetery.

#### THE NANTYGLO AND BEAUFORT WORKS.

The works of Nantyglo and Beaufort, after passing into the hands of Messrs. J. and C. Bailey, gradually assumed very large proportions. In 1845 the railway system of England came into being, and the large iron properties in South Wales, where iron, coal, and lime were in close proximity, were well equipped for taking advantage of the moment, and for a time the iron trade was developed with marvellous rapidity. After the making of British railways, there followed the American, and companies in other parts of the world had to come to South Wales for the vast quantity of rails which had suddenly become a necessity. At Nantyglo and Beaufort were 5,000 acres of surface



property; 530 houses stood on the ground of the firm. There were 12 blast furnaces, seven at Nantyglo and five at Beaufort, with a full equipment of forges, rolling mills, and refineries. The minerals cropped out at the surface and could in places be dug out as potatoes from a garden; all could be reached by means of shallow pits varying from 40 to 200 yards in depth. Twelve seams of coal were worked, having a combined depth of 40 feet of mineral; and under the property was an estimated quantity of 150 million tons of coal, two veins being of the finest steam coal. The iron stone was in quantity unlimited.

Two private railways connected the works with the Great Western and the London and North Western systems, while a third, eight miles in length, brought lime stone (necessary in the manufacture) from the quarries at Llangattock. Eleven hundred tons of coal were raised in a day, and 68,000 tons of iron manufactured in a year. Above and underground were 300 miles of rail and tram road. There were shipping wharves at Newport connected by the works by a private railway, since replaced by the London and North Western Company. All the engineering works had been designed and carried out by members of the firm. At the sale of the works in 1870 it was necessary to procure a private Act of Parliament to enable arrangements to be made at the termination of the lease with the Marquess of Abergavenny, a time too remote for living man to see.

A description of one iron works, to the records of which the writer has had access, is here given. Similar details of Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Rhymney, Dowlais, and Cyfarthfa, must be left to the imagination of the reader. The records of the iron trade have nearly all passed away, though the whole history is contained within the limits of one hundred years. Iron has given place to steel, and instead of the iron dug from our native hills, the ironmasters of to-day use the ore imported from foreign lands.

#### THE CRAWSHAY PEDIGREE.

WILLIAM CRASHAW of Woodhouse, co. York, married 22 Sept., 1706, Susannah Wandsworth, of Normanton, co. York (she married secondly 1723 Jonathan Ibbotson). William Crashaw was buried 6 June 1720. He had issue,

1. John Crashaw, bapt. 10 Sept., 1707, buried 12 Dec. 1707.
2. Richard Crashay, bapt. 6 Feb., 1709, buried 3 Feb., 1722.
3. WILLIAM CRAWSHAY, (of Normanton, co. York), bapt. 17 May, 1713.
4. Elizabeth Crawshay, bapt. 17 May, 1713, buried 3 Feb., 1722.

William Crawshay, who succeeded his father, married 29 June, 1738 Elizabeth Nicholson, dau. of Obadiah Nicholson, of Normanton, (bapt. 14 July 1714, died 2 April 1744); and had issue:

1. RICHARD CRAWSHAY, born at Normanton 1739.
2. John Crawshay, bapt. 6 April, 1743, died in infancy.
3. William Crawshay, born 1744, died in infancy.
4. Susannah, who married JOHN BAILEY (died 1813), and had among other issue,

1. CRAWSHAY BAILEY.

2. JOSEPH BAILEY, bapt. 9 March, 1783, married, 1st. Oct. 10, 1810, Maria Latham (fourth daughter of Joseph Latham) and 2ndly Mary Anne Hopper (by whom he had a daughter Bertha, mar. 1855 Alexander Spearman Young and died 1860).

(For further details of Joseph Bailey, see the Glanusk pedigree, and Parliamentary History.)

5. Elizabeth Crawshay, born 1747, who married — Thompson.
6. Sarah, who married — Moser.

Richard Crawshay, of Cyfarthfa House, Glamorgan, in his youth came to London and was employed in the City in the cast-iron business of a Mr. Becklewith, who afterwards assigned it to him. In 1765 he carried on business at 3 Crane Stairs, Thames Street, London, E.C., under the style of Richard Crawshay & Co., and 1772 as Richard Crawshay, ironmaster, at 3, Bull Wharf Lane, Queenhithe, London, E.C. In 1780 he founded Cyfarthfa Iron Works. At his death, being sole owner, he bequeathed them as follows, to his son William a three-eighth share, his son-in-law Benjamin Hall a three-eighth share, and to his nephew Joseph Bailey a two-eighth share. He married Mary——, (born 1745, died 1811), and dying on 27th June, 1810, was buried at Llandaff Cathedral. He had issue,

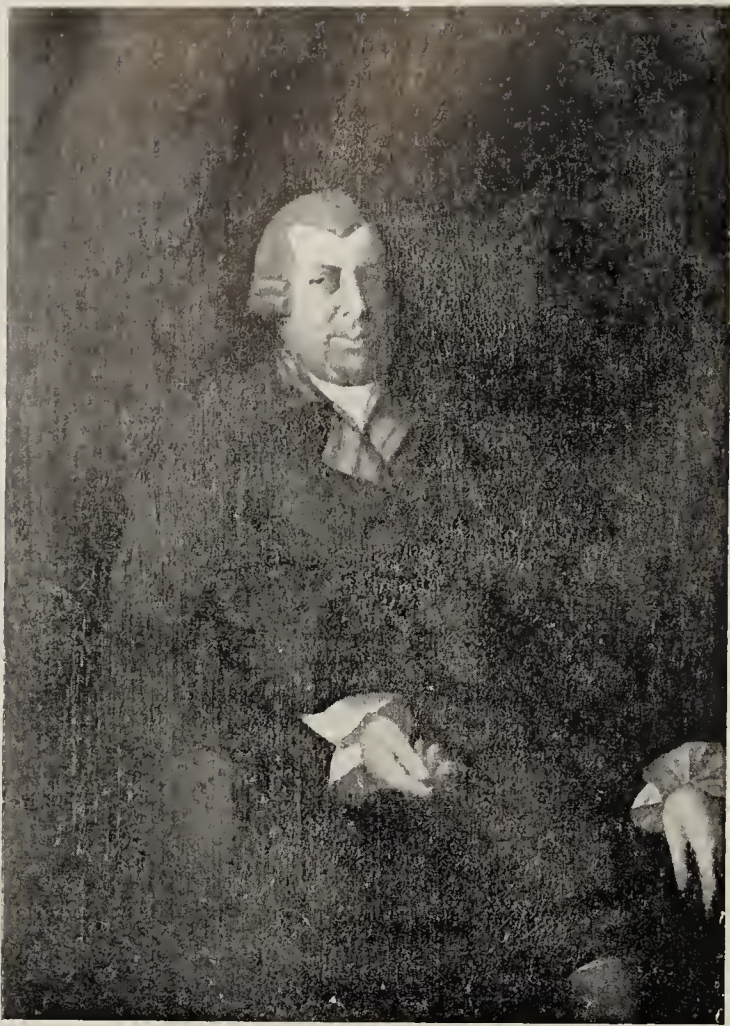
1. WILLIAM, born 1764, of Stoke Newington, married Elizabeth Cousens (born 1760, died 1825). He was owner of Cyfarthfa Works (by bequest, and purchase from J. Bailey and Benjamin Hall.)
2. Anne, who married Thomas Franklen (died 23 Feb., 1831) and by him had (beside others) issue,
  1. R. Franklen (of Clemenston, co. Glam.), born 1801, marr. 3rd Feb. 1830 Isabella Catherine, daughter of Thomas Mansel Talbot (she died 1874, aged 69) and he died 1883, aged 82. By this marriage, there were, among others,





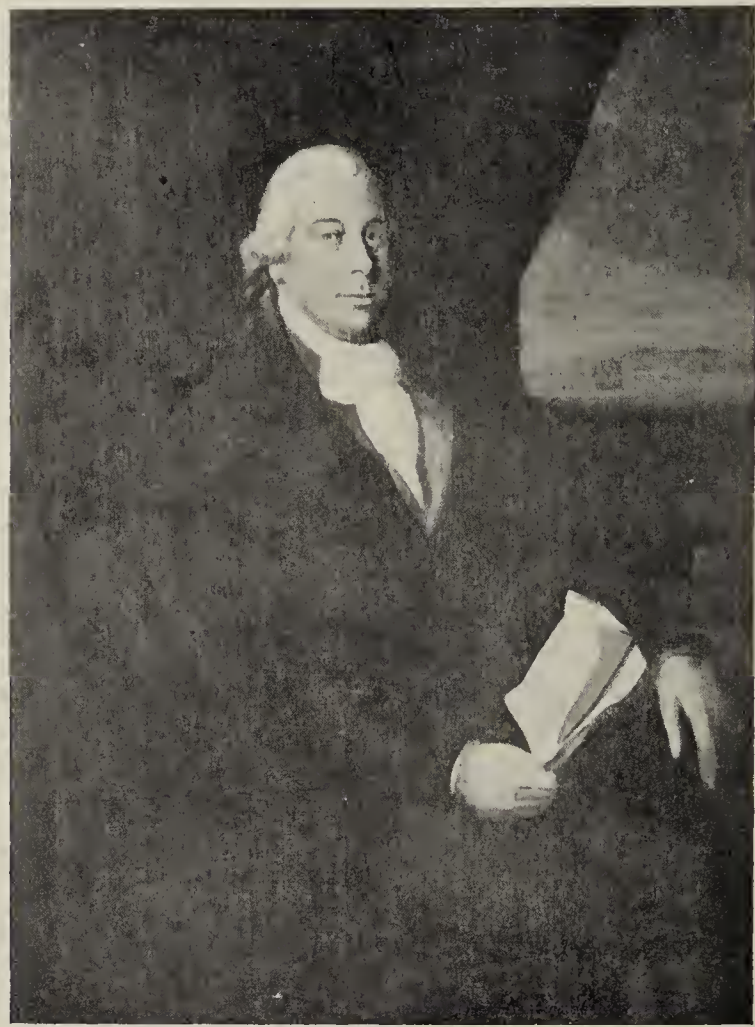


THE CRAWSHAY IRONMASTERS.



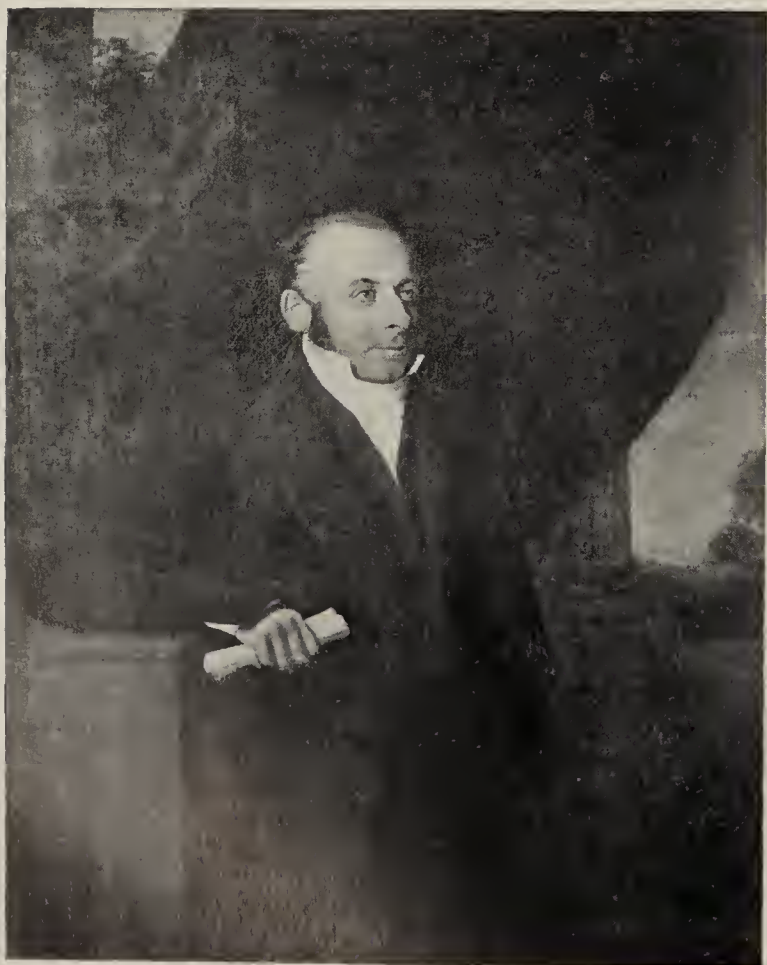
RICHARD CRAWSHAY.

Born 1739. Died 1810.



WILLIAM CRAWSHAY.

Born 1764. Died 1834.



WILLIAM CRAWSHAY.

Born 1788. Died 1867.



ROBERT THOMPSON CRAWSHAY.

Born 1817. Died 1875.



1. Ch. Rd. Franklen, who married Hilda, dau. of A. D. Berrington, of Pantygoitre, Mon., and had issue a dau. Hilda Evelyn Gwendoline (born 1892).
2. T. H. Mansel Franklen, who mar. Florence, daughter of Thomas Allen, of Frecstone, Pembroke.
3. Elizabeth, who married Win. Thomas Williams.
4. CHARLOTTE, married 16 Dec. 1801, BENJAMIN HALL, having—
  1. Other issue.
  2. BENJAMIN HALL, born 1802, created a baronet 1838, made a Peer (taking the title of Lord Llanover) in 1859. He was lord lieutenant of Monmouthshire. He married 4 Dec. 1823, Augusta Waddington, of Llanover, and he died 27th April, 1867. He had (beside other issue),
    1. Augusta Charlotte Elizabeth, who married, 12th Nov. 1846, John Arthur Herbert of Llanarth, and has with others, issue—
      1. Ivor John Caradoc (Bart.) of Llanarth Court, Col. in Grenadier Guards, M.P. for one of the Monmouthshire divisions 1907, Created a baronet 1908; married 30th July, 1873, Hon. Albertina Agnes Mary daughter of Albert first Lord Londesborough, and has issue (1. Elidyr John Bernard, B.A., King's Coll. Camb., born 13 Jan. 1881; 2. Fflorens Mary Ursula).
      2. Arthur James (Sir) K.C.V.O., born 1855, in the Diplomatic Service, married 1892 Helen Louise, daughter and co-heiress of the late William Gammell, of Rhode Island, U.S.A., and has issue John Arthur, born 1895. Sir Arthur is M.A., Oxon, and D.L. Co. Mon.

William Crawshay died 11 August, 1834. He left issue,

1. RICHARD CRAWSHAY, of Ottershaw Park, co. Surrey (born 1st Sept, 1786, married 1808, died 1859). He married Mary Homfray, daughter of Francis Homfray, The Hyde, co. Stafford (born 1780, died 1863.) He had issue—
  1. Mary, married Rev. William Smith and left issue 11 children.
  2. Richard C., married Maria Elinor Fair, and left issue (1) Richard Crawshay, born 1862 (formerly Inniskillins, now B. So. African Co.); (2) Geo. Alfred C. (Rev.) of Melton Mowbray (born 1864); (3) Frederick William C. (born 1866), Bedford Regt.; (4) Lionel Routledge C. (born 1868).
  3. Laura, who married Francis Crawshay.
  4. Jane, married J. Thos. Tallent, M.R.C.S. of Wingham, co. Norfolk; he died 1877.
  5. Charles C. of Hingham, marr. Elizabeth Maria Jane Cubitt, dau. of B. Cubbitt, Bolton, C.E., and had issue
    1. Lucy, marr. F. W. Bush of Hanworth, Middlesex. They had 7 children.
    2. Charles Edward C., born 1862, marr. Marcella Mildred Thompson.
    3. Emily Jane.
    4. Gertrude Mary Matilda.
    5. Walter Cubitt C., born 1865, marr. 1893 Constance Esther Francis, dau. of Major T. C. Briggs.
  6. Caroline, marr. Rev. W. Frost, and left 6 children.
  7. Frederick Crawshay, of Scole, Norfolk, born 1818, mar. 1859, Eliza, widow of Capt. J. C. Remington, R. Bengal Army, and had issue Richard Wood C., J.P., co. Norfolk, (born 1860, mar. 1891 Augusta Jane Boddam, dau. of General Boddam, Royal Bengal Army.)
  8. Clara, mar. Rev. B. Smith, 1861; he died 1876.
  9. Matilda (twin with 10) mar. F. J. Gant.
  10. Edward C. (twin with 9) of Clauston, Leicester, who marr. Marion dau. of William Proudfoot of Toronto, and had issue (1) Geoffrey Stratford C. born 1863, solicitor, who marr. 1891 Edith Alice, dau. of W. A. Robinson, solicitor (they had a daughter, Myfanwy Iltwyd), and (2) Silvia.
  11. Emily, mar. 1846, Francis Wiston Bradshaw, and left issue.
  12. Julia marr. F. S. Cole, and left issue Julia (mar. 1876—Slocombe, by whom she had issue J. Grace S., E. Ernest C. S., and A. Vere). She married secondly A. K. Maybury.



2. WILLIAM CRAWSHAY, of Caversham Park, Oxfordshire, and Cyfartha Castle, mar. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1828 Elizabeth Homfray, dau. of Francis Homfray, The Hyde, co. Stafford, by whom he had issue,
    1. Eliza born 1809 (died 1886); by her marriage in 1832 with the Rev. G. Thomas of Ystrad Mynach, Glam. (d. 1860), she had issue (1) Jane, born 1834, died unm. 1861; (2) Eliza, born 1835, died unm. 1864; (3) Catharine, born 1837, died 1875, she married H. Martyn Kennard and had issue, Martyn Th. Kennard (born 1859) and Mary Elise (m. 1881 A. W. Leatham, and has issue) (4) Geo. W. G. Thomas, born 1843 (d. 1885), mar. 1864 Ellen Kennard, and left issue 6 children.
    2. Francis Crawshay of Broadbourne Hall, Kent, born 1811, (died 1878), mar. 1837 Laura Crawshay (see RICHARD CRAWSHAY). They had issue,
      1. William C., of Southampton, born 1841, mar. 1869, Julia Annie Allen, and had issue, William C. (born 1871), mar. 1892,—Jenkins.
      2. Laura Julia, born 1844, mar. 1862 T. Rowland Fothergill of Taff Vale Iron-works, and has issue.
      3. Isabel Eliza, born 1845, died 1876; m. 1862 Geo. Fothergill, and has issue.
      4. Richard C., born 1847, died 1848.
      5. Francis Richard C., m. Isabel Hutton Vignoles, and had issue Francis Gwillim Crawshay (born 1876) and Laura Gwenllian.
      6. Tudor C., of Bonvilston, Glam. (born 1850) mar. 1877 Marie Augusta Hester Ayres, and had issue Owen Tudor Richard C. (born 1878) and Mervyn C.
      7. Helen Christine, m. 1873 Fred Wilmer Clarke, and has issue.
      8. Mary Stella, m. 1872 Thomas Alworth, and has issue.
      9. De Barri C., born 1857, mar 1878 Rose Mary Young and has issue Lionel H. de Barri C (born 1882) and Raymond Vaughan Edwin de Barri C. (born 1885).
    3. Edwin (twin with Henry C.) died in infancy.
    4. Henry C. of Oaklands, died 1879, married Eliza, and had issue,
      1. Henry C. died unm.
      2. Edwin C., born 1838, married Charlotte Hole, and had issue Henry C. (born 1873) and other issue.
      3. William C. of Riverdale, mar. 1871 Alice Maria Gordon Cumming, killed in the hunting field, and left a son Henry James C., born 1875.
      4. Herbert Henry C., born 1859, died 1892, mar. 1880 Maria C. Daniel and left issue three daughters.
      5. Eliza Lucretia, mar. C. J. Hall, The Broole, Abergavenny, (2ndly Cousins, 3rdly Whale).
      6. Sarah Louise (a twin with No. 5.), married William Batt, of Cae Kenfig, Abergavenny.
      7. Agnes, married J. Dennis and has issue.
      8. Emily, married 1857 John Heyworth, and has issue.
      9. Alice, mar. 1st Alfred Sterry, 2nd Ernest Jerdein.
      10. Isabel, died unm.
      11. Catherine Hermione, mar. K. A. A. B. Creagh, of Creagh Castle, co. Cork.
      12. Constance.
      13. Eva Juliette, mar. Hervey Arthur Talbot, and secondly Capt Fenwick.
  3. Eliza, born 1790, died June 1, 1877, s.p., mar. Rev. Aug. Clissold.
  4. Mary, born 1793, died 1881, s.p., mar. Capt. F. Wood, Life Guards, of The Sheet, Ludlow.
  5. George Crawshay (*see next page.*)
- William Crawshay married 2ndly Isabel Thompson, dau. of James Thompson, Lord Mayor, director of the Bank of England, M.P., &c., and by her had issue,
1. Isabel, born and died 1816.
  2. ROBERT THOMPSON CRAWSHAY of Cyfarthfa, born 1817 (died 1879), he married 1846 Rose Mary Yeates (deceased) and had issue,
    1. WILLIAM THOMPSON CRAWSHAY, of CAVERSHAM and of CYFARTHFA CASTLE, D.L. & J.P., born 1847, married 1870 Florentia Maria Wood, daughter of Col. Wood of Southall, co. Glam.
    2. Rose Harriet Thompson, married A. J. Williams, and has issue two sons.



3. Henrietta Louise, mar. W. Crawshay Ralston (by whom she had three sons), 2ndly Harvey Spiller, Major Hants Regt., deceased (by whom she had two daughters).
  4. Robert Thompson Crawshay, born 1855, of Cyfarthfa and of Rome, married Mary, dau. of Sir John Leslie, and has one son, Jack.
  5. RICHARD FREDERIC C. of TYMAWR, co. Brecknock, born 1859, married 1880, Tempe Isabella Oakes, and has issue,
    1. Tempe Rose, born 1881.
    2. RICHARD OAKES CRAWSHAY, born 1882.
    3. Leila, born 1885.
    4. Rhona, born 1888.
  3. Isabel, born 1818 (died 1842) married, 1838, Gerald Ralston, and had issue,
    1. William Crawshay Ralston, born 1840, died 1878, married Henrietta Louise Crawshay (died 1883), and left issue
      1. W. R. Crawshay Ralston, of Pontywall, Brecknock (born 1872).
      2. Gerald Crawshay Ralston, born 1873.
      3. T. Crawshay Ralston, born 1876.
    2. G. E. Ralston, born 1842, died 1844.
  4. Agnes, born 1820, died 1853, married James Dolphin, Capt. R. Brigade, left issue 5 children.
  5. Amelia, marr. 1844 T. Fraser Sandeman, Capt. 42nd Highlanders, and had issue, of whom Robert Preston Sandeman (Capt. 10th Hussars), born 1852, married 1884, Jessy Crawshay of Danypark, co. Brecknock.
  6. Jessy of Danypark, born 1822, (died 1889), mar. 1849 ALFRED CRAWSHAY, Capt. 17th Lancers, born 1823, died 1864; they had issue
    1. Alfred Thompson Crawshay, born 1850, married 1872 Mary Augusta Mathew Cornish, and had issue Madeline Isabel Flora Louisa.
    2. Codrington Fraser Crawshay, born 1851, married 1881 Emily Howard Cartland, Priory, King's Heath, and had issue Codrington Howard Rees Crawshay (born 1882), Alfred William Fraser Crawshay (born 1884), Geoffrey Cartland Hugh Crawshay (born 1892).
    3. Isabel Mary, married 1878, Hugh Backhouse Church, Col. 24th Regt.
    4. Jessy (see Sandeman), married R. P. Sandeman.
    5. Willoughby Sitwell Crawshay, died 1891.
  7. Annette, born and died 1824.
  8. James, born and died 1826 (twin).
  9. Annette, born 1826, married Capt. Parland and left issue.
- William Crawshay married thirdly Isabella Johnson, and had issue Sarah Louise who died unmarried.
5. GEORGE CRAWSHAY of Gateshead, born 1794 (died 1878) married 1818 Josephe Louise Dufaud, of Fonchambault, France (born 1802, died 1883), and had issue
    1. Louise Constance, mar. 1st F. W. Stanley, 2ndly Rev. J. Graham, and had issue by both.
    2. George C., married Elizabeth, dau. of Sir John Fife, and had issue.
    3. Alfred Crawshay, married Jessy Crawshay (for issue see Jessy C.)
    4. Juliet, born 1824, died 1877, married 1848 James Sinclair and has issue.
    5. Edmund C., Bensham Hall, co. Durham, born 1826, mar. 1st, 1859, Mary Jane Matthison, by whom he has issue, and 2ndly 1886 Susannah Weslie.
    6. Herbert C., Stormer Hall, Hereford, born 1830, mar. 1859 Mary Lewis, and has issue.
- And five others.





## CHAPTER IX.

Records of Quarter Sessions (continued).—Vol. 6 : 1815 to 1826 ; Vol. 7, 1827—1838 ; Vol. 8, 1838—1849 ;—  
Joint Counties Lunatic Asylum at Abergavenny.—Records of Quarter Sessions, Vol. 9, 1850—1856 ; Vol. 10,  
1856—1866 ; Vol. 11, 1866—1874.

THE sixth volume of the Records of Quarter Sessions covers twelve years from 1815 to 1826. It was the custom of the Court to adjourn from month to month, even when there was no business to transact, and this adjournment was usually to the second Wednesday in the month. It should be noted that this was the day of the monthly agricultural dinner, and we wonder what connection, if any, there was between the two events, and whether the work of the Justices was finished by two p.m., the dinner hour.

Justice had now assumed the more merciful form, which, happily, prevails at the present time. Visiting justices were appointed at each Session, not annually as has since been the custom. To modern ears it reads oddly that each justice on qualifying subscribed a declaration against the doctrine of Transubstantiation ! The chief business of Sessions was rating appeals. In the days before Union chargeability a perpetual warfare went on between the various parishes as to the removal of paupers. An Act had been passed, too, for the relief of insolvent debtors having lain in prison for a certain time, and for a debt of small amount they may be discharged on application made to the Court.

Prison discipline continued to engage attention, a classified return of all prisoners being made to the Secretary of State in 1820, and an engineer sent to Haverfordwest to report on the Gaol of that town ; in consequence a treadmill was erected in Brecon at a cost of £180. The Borough shared with the County in this Gaol, and agreed to pay one-tenth of the cost of all improvements. It had been further enacted by Parliament that for the future no woman was to be keeper of any prison in which male prisoners were confined ; so Mrs. Mary Gillins, gaoler, receives her dismissal, and William Gillins was appointed in her stead, which reads as if the dismissal had been made easy for the lady.

In 1822, to diminish the expenditure on prosecutions a County Solicitor was appointed at a fixed salary to conduct prosecutions, an office which was continued with intermissions until the appointment of the County Council in 1888, when the office was abolished.

### THE FAGGOT VOTERS.

An Act had been passed to prevent "Fraudulent and Occasional Votes in the Election of Knights of the Shire so far as relates to the right of voting by virtue of an annuity or rent charge," and there were about the year 1816 memorials bearing date (say) the 15th of March instant whereby David Lloyd (let us say) "grants, bargains, and sells" to John Thomas of the town of Brecon "one annuity or yearly rent-charge of two pounds and ten shillings for the natural life of the said David Lloyd, &c. &c." This presentment was made presumably to show that the rent-charge was not "occasional," and let us hope not fraudulent, though as they were all for a similar amount, there can be little doubt that they were made for the construction of what were called "faggot votes," a practice which continued until a recent Reform Act enacted that no rent-charge created after a date now past shall confer the franchise unless the rent-charge was obtained by inheritance.

We learn from these Records, incidentally, that in 1826 the price of hay in Brecon was £5 a ton, and oats 4s. a bushel.

Applications for Amendments to the Rules of Friendly Societies had in 1816 become so frequent, that they were referred to the visiting justices. A set of pattern rules was drawn up, though not till ten years later, amongst which rules was one restricting Friendly Societies from holding their meetings in public houses. Neighbouring counties showed "little or no" disposition to adopt the rule, which thus became nugatory, and was abandoned.

Improvements to the Hall, for the accommodation of the Justices of Great Sessions were considered necessary, but the Corporation of Brecon thought the arrangements fully adequate, and the alterations were not made. These Great Sessions, instituted by King Henry VIII., took in Wales the place of Assize until they were abolished in 1830 (1st Will. IV. Cap. 70).



In 1820, Mr. E. Morgan, of Llangattock Place, retired from the office of Chairman of Quarter Sessions through ill-health, a decision much regretted by his colleagues, who, as a mark of their esteem, ordered that when able to attend at Sessions he should sit at the right of the Chairman. Henry Allen, Esq, attorney general for this circuit, was elected chairman.

By an Act of Parliament 55 Geo. 3, Ch. 14, the Great Forest of Brecknock was allotted and enclosed. The accounts of the Commissioners were audited by the Court of Quarter Sessions.

#### COUNTY BRIDGES.

A general Act of Parliament, under which county bridges have been since managed, was passed in the year 1803 [43 Geo. III., c 58]. The inhabitants of counties had been aforetime bound to repair the public bridges known as county bridges and the roads at each end for limited distances, but the laws were defective and doubts had arisen how far the inhabitants were liable to improve bridges not sufficiently commodious for the public; therefore power was given to the Surveyor of Bridges appointed by Quarter Sessions, to search for and take gravel, stone, sand, and other materials, to which list was subsequently added stone in quarries, for the repair of bridges and the roads of their approaches, making due satisfaction for damage the said Surveyor might do. The principal Act gave powers to widen and improve a bridge and to make it more commodious for the public, and where a county bridge was in such decay as to make rebuilding necessary, then it was made lawful for the justices to order it to be rebuilt, either on the old site or on any new one more convenient to the public within two hundred yards of the former one; subsidiary powers were also given to purchase lands and buildings, and for other matters.

The fifth section 'declared what bridges to be erected after the passing of the principal Act, that is subsequent to the year 1803, the counties were liable to maintain, and it was enacted that "no bridge hereafter to be erected by any individual should be deemed a county bridge unless such bridge was erected in a substantial and commodious manner, under the direction or to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor. A subsequent Act made powers of obtaining materials compulsory, and gave further powers, but it is beyond our present purpose.

In the county of Brecon it remained the custom, even after the passing of these Acts of Parliament, for the inhabitants of the several hundreds, parishes, and districts within the county, by reason of prescription, usage, or from some other cause, to repair at their own expense the bridges situated within their districts, notwithstanding that the bridges had become of great public utility. Doubts had arisen as to the liability to repair these bridges. Some perhaps had been built after 1803, had not been erected by the County Surveyor, were perhaps of wood and by no means substantial, and it was desirable that all bridges of public utility within the county should be kept in more perfect repair; therefore in the year 1821 it was enacted that, notwithstanding any law or custom to the contrary, all bridges of public utility which are situated within the county of Brecon shall be deemed to be county bridges, and that all inhabitants of the county shall for ever hereafter be liable to the repairs of the bridges and of the roads at the ends thereof, save and except that all bridges to be built after the passing of this Act, that is to say, after the 28th May, 1821, must be built to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor as was laid down in the general Act.

Another section extended the powers of altering the site of building, whereas by the law already quoted no bridge could be removed more than one hundred yards from its former site, it was enacted for the county of Brecon that, where such bridge was composed of timber, or built on insufficient foundations, it should be lawful for the justices to direct the same to be taken down and a bridge to be built instead thereof on any new site within five hundred yards of the former bridge.

This statement of legislation is necessary for the understanding of the Records of Quarter Sessions. The local Act was the only one of the kind ever passed: the county had represented to Parliament that they were at great expenditure with reference to their bridges. Every little valley had its river or brook, and there were continual claims on the county, so the justices thought it expedient to obtain the local Act. The course of proceeding under it was: An application from the inhabitants of a district stating that their bridge was in bad repair, and that it was one of great public utility; that application was laid before the Justices at Quarter Sessions, and they directed the Surveyor to examine the bridge, and upon his report and the certificate of two Justices, the bridge, if of public utility and built prior to 1821, was placed under the Act as a county bridge. In giving evidence in 1844, twenty-three years after the passing of the Act, John Jones, Esq., chairman of Quarter Sessions, told the Commissioners in the South Wales Enquiry that the Act had not been attended with so much expense as had been expected, and that the Act was found beneficial and useful. The practice with reference to the building of new bridges was to build wherever there



was a bridge insufficient for its purpose. In this county it often happened that carriages had to pass brooks by means of a "sort of wooden bridge" that was always getting into bad repair; in these cases, when the Surveyor reported upon a good site for building a stone bridge, the old bridge was removed and a stone one built. A mere horse or foot-bridge had never been allowed to be thrown upon the county. Under the section, by throwing upon the county 100 yards of road at each end of the bridge, there was added to the liability of Brecknockshire eleven miles of turnpike (main) roads and thirteen miles on parish roads—twenty-four miles in all. There were in 1844 one hundred and thirteen county bridges on turnpike (main) roads and ninety-eight on the parish roads—in all two hundred and eleven. In 1893 the county bridges had further increased in number to two hundred and forty-two.

#### RECORDS OF QUARTER SESSIONS, VOLS. 7 AND 8.

"The seventh volume covers the time from 1827, the seventh year of George IV. to 1838, the first year of Queen Victoria (this is in duplicate and the paging here given is consequently incorrect so far as one copy is concerned). Hay, in 1827, was £5 per ton and oats 4s per bushel; an addition of fourpence in the shilling was therefore allowed on the price of carriages impressed within the County of Brecon for His Majesty's forces on the march. Later in the year prices again rise, hay being £6 per ton and oats 5s per bushel. Ten years later, in 1837, coal was delivered in Brecon at 16s per ton. In the year 1830, the term for which the Militia armoury had been taken had expired, and the storage was reported insufficient; a house was found in the town of Brecon, near the Priory Bridge, which would suit the purpose, and it was rented at the yearly cost of £20.

#### THE MERTHYR RIOTS.

In 1831 riots occurred at Merthyr, and the peace of Breconshire was threatened. The Court of Quarter Sessions called out the pensioners, Militia, and special constables, for the security of the arms; the expense was apportioned between county and borough. At the same time the prisoners in the gaol became turbulent and unruly and the Justices interdicted the offenders from seeing their friends weekly as had aforetime been the custom. Discipline in the gaol seems to have been lax, for in 1833 two prisoners escaped, and alterations in the structure became necessary; the expense being apportioned by the county paying nine-tenths and the borough one-tenth. In 1815 a Mrs. Collinson had left a legacy in favour of the county gaol for the benefit of discharged prisoners; and reference to the matter will be found in that portion of this work dealing with charities.

#### FLOODS AT NEW BRIDGE.

The central arch of the New Bridge over Wye having been carried away by flood, negotiations of permanent interest took place defining the responsibility of either county. A committee of justices from each county met, but Radnor desiring that the matter be referred to counsel, the Court of Quarter Sessions of Brecknock decided that there was no necessity for a case, as that county was ready to repair their part of the bridge namely, the three arches on the Breconshire side and half the central arch, being the whole of their liability. A proposal was made, apparently on behalf of Brecknock, that Radnor should contract to do the work, which seems to have fallen through, as in October 1832, William Jones was paid one hundred and fifty-three pounds for rebuilding that part of the bridge over the Wye which Breconshire was liable to repair.

Where a bridge is of one arch, it is clear that an arrangement between two counties for mutual repair is convenient, so in 1834, when a bridge at Cam ynys Minton, repairable by Brecknock and Glamorgan, was destroyed by flood, it was rebuilt with stone at the joint expense of the two counties. The weak wooden bridges still caused much trouble and expense, and in 1833 Gwenllian and Haffis bridges were reported as swept away by floods, and were rebuilt at considerable cost; Llwynfell bridge was also rebuilt. Tarrell bridge in 1838 had been rebuilt, the Surveyor being sent to Biggs Weir on the Wye to view the bridge there and to ascertain if a similar structure might serve. The bridge was rebuilt at a cost exceeding £600, the contractor to keep it in repair, as usual, for seven years; in 1830 the County Treasurer was ordered to lay out at interest £125 due to Job Thomas, to be paid to him on certificate that the bridge was complete. Two years later Job Thomas applied for his money, and the Court decreed that neither the money nor the interest could be paid until the bridge had been kept in repair for seven years; a somewhat high-handed proceeding, and so the Justices thought, on re-consideration, as in 1833 Job Thomas duly received his money. The same year, 1833, a wooden bridge was built over the Irvon at Llangammarch, which seems a retrograde step.

#### NEW LOCK-UP HOUSES, ETC.

A lock-up house was ordered to be built, in 1832, at Builth, and a magistrates' room was also erected, partly by private subscription. In 1816 a toll house had been purchased for a site; this



was now exchanged with Mr E. D. Thomas for a more suitable site on his land, and the building was to be erected, costing the county £125, in addition to private subscriptions.

The formation of a "mountain police" is suggested by Lord Melbourne, Secretary of State, and a date was fixed for its discussion, but no more seems to have been heard of this force. The poor rate must have been well-nigh unbearable; the rate in Talgarth parish in 1834 reached 8s in the pound. The inhabitants appealed and were granted relief. The maladministration of the Poor Law had led to a Commission of Inquiry in 1832, the result of which was laid before Parliament in 1834, and the Poor Law Amendment Act was passed. The Justices of the county assured the Government of their co-operation. This Act grouped parishes into Unions, and brought about the system of government which was endured until it was partially superseded in 1894, when the functions of the Guardians were taken up by District Councils. In the autumn of 1836, Brecknock was divided into Unions, but curiously enough no record of what must have been a matter of prime importance is found in the Records of Quarter Sessions. With the exception of the central Union of Brecknock, and Crickhowell, every Union transgressed the border of the county, the neighbourhood of market towns being formed into a Union without reference to county boundaries. This fact led to great complications in subsequent legislation.

#### THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

In 1836 the question of employing a public prosecutor was first taken into consideration. The matter may not at that time have been ripe, and the proposal was not adopted. Legislation as to prisons had been promised by the Government, pending which prison rules were arranged by the Justices, and a silent system was adopted in 1836. The previous year an Act had been passed under which the county authorities received, and still receive, half the cost of prosecutions and of the conveyance of prisoners. Discipline remained very lax in the gaol; prisoners and convicts had again escaped, and the keeper of the House of Correction is discharged from his office for gross and culpable negligence. Mr John Lazenby was appointed to succeed him, and held the office until the prisons were taken over by the Government. In 1836 the Borough of Brecon ceased to have a separate Court of Quarter Sessions, whereby the repair of bridges within the borough, and the maintenance of the borough prisoners, became a charge upon the county; a rate, therefore, at the same rate per pound as the county rate was levied on the borough. Two years afterwards the county entered into a contract with the borough enabling the Corporation to use the County Gaol for debtor prisoners as well as for criminals, who were already received.

#### THE OLD POLLING PLACES.

In 1837 the polling places of the county were deemed insufficient, there being only one, that is to say, Brecon; which, to modern ears, sounds very insufficient indeed. In a petition to the Crown on the subject, the Justices thought it necessary to argue the question laboriously: "The length of the county is fifty miles, the population 47,800, therefore your petitioners pray, etc." Devynock, Hay, Talgarth, Crickhowell, and Builth are made polling stations; the county is divided into districts, and the order is confirmed by the King's most excellent Majesty. Before it was enrolled the King had passed away, and Proclamation had been made of

#### HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

as Queen of these realms. She died in 1901, having reigned for 64 years.

#### RECORDS OF QUARTER SESSIONS.—VOL. 8: 1838—1849.

It is scarcely necessary to pursue in detail the improvement of county bridges; being of stone, improvements had become more costly. For instance, in 1838, Tringarth is rebuilt at a cost of £135; the Honddu bridge at Watergate cost £214, merely to repair. The River Grwyne had been in flood, and as doubts as to liability to repair have from time to time arisen, it may be well to note that in 1839 the three bridges, Llangenny, Millbrook, and Llangrwyne, were repaired at the county's expense. In 1848 the question for contracting for the repairs of parapets and bridges approaches were considered. Those in the county of Brecon, on the main road from Carmarthenshire to Monmouthshire, are tendered for at £13 9s 0d for one year, which the Justices accepted. A more important question is that of bridges between neighbouring authorities. The Black Lion bridge at Hay had been erected at the equal expense of the counties of Brecon and Hereford. In 1839 repairs were necessary, and the Clerk of the Peace wrote to the official at Hereford that this county would not bear more than half the charge. The obvious rule is that the county responsibility ends with the middle of the river: it may occasionally be convenient to divide the expense, and that is a matter of convenience to be met when it arises.

#### DISPUTE OVER GLASBURY BRIDGE.

In 1845 trouble arose as to Glasbury bridge. The hamlet of Glasbury south of the Wye



then formed part of the county of Radnor. The Brecknock Surveyor, having received a letter from the Surveyor of Radnor suggesting that they should meet and mark off the division of the bridge to the respective counties, was instructed to reply that no part of the bridge belonged to the county of Brecknock. The Justices of Radnor thereupon ordered their Surveyor to indict the inhabitants of Brecknock for the non-repair of so much of Glasbury bridge as lay (according to such order) within their county. Brecknock prepared a case for the opinion of counsel, and in 1847 ordered the Clerk of the Peace to take the necessary steps for defending an action. The question seems to have remained in abeyance for some time, as in 1849 it was still under discussion whether the trial should take place at Hereford or at Carmarthen. At this point the volume ends, and leaves us in doubt as to how the dispute was concluded.

#### HUGH BOLD THE FIRST CHAIRMAN.

In the year 1839 Hugh Bold, Esq., retired from the office of Chairman of Quarter Sessions through failing health, and the Lord Lieutenant was "respectfully requested" to continue to act as chairman. In 1840 Mr J. Jones became chairman. The same year a letter was received from the Secretary of State requesting the opinion of the Justices as to the propriety of establishing a general constabulary force. The Court thought that for this county it was not necessary. In 1828 an Act [9 Geo. 3, c. 437] had been passed for the better regulation of divisions in counties. Under its provisions the Justices in 1839 formed a new petty sessional division consisting of Ystradgunlais and Ystradvellty; these parishes were therefore "disannexed" from Devynock, and were henceforth to form the district of Ystradgunlais, that being the name of the principal parish within the division. In the following year, 1840, Glyntawe was added to the Ystradgunlais petty sessional division, and it was arranged that a lock-up should be built. In 1843 a lock-up was also built at Crickhowell on land leased from the Duke of Beaufort; which has now yielded to a freehold structure. In 1841, the parish of Gwenddwr (Trawscoed excepted) was removed from the petty sessional division of Talgarth, and joined to that of Builth. In 1843 the Justices appointed a county public prosecutor for one year at a salary of £50, an office which continued until 1888, when the system was abandoned, although it was generally thought to have been a very useful institution.

#### THE GREAT FOREST.

"At the end of this volume (written the reverse way) is the award in the matter of the Great Forest of Brecon: the King's allotment, 13,860 acres; 17,106 for commonage; 292 for tythe allotments; 7,567 acres sale allotments to various persons; a piece of land containing 540 acres was also allotted to be sold in case the money in hand was insufficient for the expenses—otherwise one moiety thereof to the Crown and the other to the commoners. There is also the county rate basis as settled in 1851, the rateable value being then £171,132; a list of the Rolls in the press in the Grand Jury Room; a list of Friendly Societies with the dates of their rules; a list of parishes and places within the county of Brecknock; and the Rules and Regulations for the government of the gaol.

#### THE OLD GAOL AND NEW SHIRE HALL.

In consequence of the gaol being unhealthy, and inadequate for the safe custody of prisoners, escape having been effected in one instance and other attempts having been made, it was in 1838 deemed expedient to erect a new gaol. A committee was formed to whom also was referred the erection of a new County Hall on a site contiguous to the gaol; difficulties, however, arose, and the Shire Hall was built elsewhere. In 1841 the gaol question was still undecided, and the mode of warming was reported as "cruelly inefficient" during inclement weather; some little structural alterations were carried out and a supply of coals carried in. The question of rebuilding was revived, and a close of land between the Castle and the Priory was chosen as a suitable site. At Easter, 1842, no further steps having been taken, the Secretary of State wrote expressing a hope that means may be adopted to remedy the coldness of the gaol without waiting for the completion of a model prison; the Justices, thereupon, somewhat reluctantly, purchased a hot-water apparatus for £39. Four years later, in 1846, the Secretary of State was still pressing the matter, and a committee was formed to confer with the Superintendent, and plans were consequently laid before the Justices for enlargement on the same site.

By this time the turnpike roads had been purchased by the County; the Shire Hall had just been completed; a lunatic asylum was projected; the Court therefore approves the Gaol plans, but adds, "owing to the heavy calls upon the funds of this county now existing, and the additional demand upon the County rate for the repairs of the turnpike roads, as well as the uncertainty of legislation as to the expense of building prisons, it would be desirable to memorialise the Secretary



of State for further delay ;” and so, after eight years of consideration, the whole matter was consigned to limbo.

## THE NEW SHIRE HALL.

In 1838 the Justices were impressed with the insufficiency of the Shire Hall for Assizes and County meetings, and with the peculiar tenure under which the same was then held by the County (being held, we think, in common with the borough). They viewed several sites, and decided that the best situation was a garden in Glamorgan Street in the occupation of Henry Lucas, Esq., M.D., and the property of Henry Allen, Esq. The agreed value of the land was £740, but as the building proceeded it was found necessary to purchase from Mrs. Williams, of Duffryn, a house and stable adjoining the hall to improve the approaches, at a cost of £288 7s. 4d., and also to acquire another plot of ground from Henry Allen, Esq., for £50, with £100 to be spent in buildings ; altogether, therefore, the cost of the site seems to have been £1,238 or thereabouts. The Committee accepted a plan of design of Grecian architecture by Messrs. Wyatt and Brandon ; working plans and specifications were prepared by August 1839, and tenders advertised for. The size and shape being determined, the greatest consideration was given by the Committee to every detail ; they made thirteen elaborate reports, and met at least twenty-seven times. A builder’s tender was accepted for £6,248, and at the Midsummer Sessions it was agreed to raise a loan of £8,000. The Exchequer Office had not funds at their disposal, and the Equitable Assurance Co., to whom application was made for a loan on the security of the County Rate, replied that “the office does not lend money on such security.” It was therefore determined to raise the money within the county, in sums of £1,000 bearing interest at £5 per cent. per annum, and repayable as it would seem generally by ten equal annual instalments. Miss Anne Latham, of Crickhowell, advanced £1,000 ; Mr. William Dyke £800 ; Mr. John Powell, Clerk of the Peace, £2,000 ; and apparently in 1842 a further £2,000 ; and perhaps at Epiphany 1843 another £1,300 ; Miss Latham added £800 ; making in all £8,900. The contractor delivered his bill for extras beyond his contract for £2,576, and the Architect’s charges came to £508, and so another £1,400 was raised. The work was practically completed before the year 1843 was out, thereby showing that buildings could be executed with rapidity when their worships were so minded. The total cost of the Hall cannot readily be established from these Records, but Mr. Powell, in his evidence before the Welsh Commission in 1844, gave further information, from which we learn that the loan was raised under a general Act of Parliament, and was secured by a mortgage upon the County rate ; and having been incurred at different times repayment was spread over 14 years, so that it was not felt, and did not become burdensome to the county. The total cost of the Hall, as given by Mr. Powell, was £11,000.

## THE ROADS OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

In a succeeding chapter we shall give a description of the roads of the county up to the middle of the 18th century, and describe the efforts put forward by the Brecknockshire Agricultural Society for their improvement. The 1767 Act of Parliament, passed to widen and repair the principal roads in the county, set up the system of tolls, and gates and toll-houses were erected, and £10,000 borrowed on the security of the tolls for road improvements. For some years the stage coach ran only to Brecon, but after the turnpike road was finished the journey was extended to Carmarthen, and in 1805 a coach was running to Milford from London five times in the week ; the route being through Gloucester, Monmouth, Abergavenny, and Brecon. Waggons were established for the carriage of heavy goods, and “bustle and activity” appeared to prevail ; and in the streets near the St. Mary’s Church at Brecon are still to be seen the enormous warehouses erected for the reception of the goods brought into the borough by North’s waggons.

In the year 1830, a second local Act was passed consolidating the main roads of Brecknock into one trust, under a single Surveyor. The roads were, however, divided into several districts, the tolls being applied exclusively to the service of the road on which they were levied. Under the powers of this Act, a new road was made through the Cwmdau Valley, from Nant y fin, the boundary of Crickhowell parish, to Talgarth. A sum amounting in all to £8,600, was advanced, chiefly by Mr. Hotchkis, for the formation of this road ; as there appeared no reasonable prospect of re-payment, the road was practically managed for his benefit. There were at one time two toll-gates upon it, which let for £180 a year. The repairs were executed by the parishes through which the road passed, one of a class of grievance which led to the riots of 1842, and to a measure passed shortly after, named the South Welsh Turnpike Roads Act. Under that measure the road was purchased by the County and the turnpike gates removed.

About 1830 the road was constructed from Porthmawr to Crickhowell bridge, still known as “the new road,” and on to Llangynidir and so towards Brecon ; the money to form it being advanced by Mr. Hotchkis, Mr. Stretton, and Mr. de Winton of Maesderwen.



The road leading from Abergavenny to Tredegar passes six miles and six furlongs through the County of Brecknock; it was made under an Act dealing with the approaches to Abergavenny, and until the expiration of the Abergavenny Trust in the year 1885, did not form portion of the main roads under the Brecknock Trust. This road ascending the mountain from Lower Llanclly to Brynmawr, was engineered by the late Mr. Henry Bailey. It rises 1,000 feet in four miles, and Mr Bailey informed the writer that the gradients were in excess of what they need have been, his instructions being to pass the doors of various houses. On the expiration of the Trust, this road became a highway of the parishes through which it passed. Two local Acts were passed about 1886-87, under which, with the exception of the portion in the Brynmawr and Ebbw Vale Urban districts, it became portion of the Brecknock main roads. It is now (1899) repaired by the County Council.

In the year 1842, widely extended disturbances, not connected with any political cause, took place throughout South Wales. The excitement was stimulated by local grievances, and gradually led to aggressions of an extensive and systematic kind. The chief grounds of complaint were the mismanagement of funds applicable to turnpike roads, the frequency and amount of the payment of tolls, the vexatious conduct of toll collectors, and illegal demands made by them. Other grievances contributed to the discontent. The unequal distribution of tithe-rent-charge, the large salaries to poor law officials, the fees to magistrates clerks, and the progressive increase of rates, all added to the public uneasiness. A further cause may have been agricultural depression. A succession of wet and unproductive harvests had reduced the capital of the farmers. They had been forced during a series of years to buy bread for their families, and the money obtained by the sale of farm produce scarcely enabled them to meet the various payments for which they were liable.

The resistance to the payment of tolls, and the destruction of turnpike gates, began in the Whitland Trust, on the confines of Pembroke and Carmarthen. This trust had been established in 1791; the Act was subsequently renewed, and several parish roads were then included which had not been named in the original Act. One at least of these roads continued to be maintained as a parish road, when suddenly the trustees resolved to place turnpike gates at each end of it. In the year 1839 some people from England intimated that if certain new gates were erected they would farm the tolls at a higher rate than that which had previously been obtained. Four new gates were erected; but the country people, thinking it wrong that the trustees should take tolls where they had incurred no expenditure, assembled in the midst of summer, at about six o'clock in the afternoon, and those gates were pulled down amidst much noise and great jollity, and without the interference of anybody. The trustees gave notice of their intention to re-erect the gates, but at a meeting held for the purpose, the magistrates for the county attended, and decided by a large majority, that the gates should not be re-erected. That which happened on the Whitland Trust occurred in a greater or less degree in every other trust in Carmarthenshire, in part of Pembrokeshire, and in the South district of Cardiganshire.

The Main Trust ran east and west from Breconshire through Carmarthen into the county of Pembroke. In 1824 it was thought advisable to improve this road that the mails might be accelerated between London and Waterford. Mr. Telford was employed by the Government to survey the road; the improvements were more costly than was expected. They seem, however, to have been confined to the County of Carmarthen.

Regarding the Brecknock Trust, it should be observed that the system which had been adopted in Brecknock for the management of the turnpike roads differed essentially from that which prevailed in any other county of South Wales. One Act of Parliament had been passed in 1830 for the whole county; by its provisions the roads were divided into 19 different districts. The Act contained provision for creating new branch roads by enabling the trustees to erect toll gates on newly constructed roads, charging the interest and capital of money borrowed for the improvement, upon the tolls arising from that road only. In this manner it was prevented from becoming an incumbrance on the tolls of the older roads; under these powers two new roads had been made as has been already described.

The general Brecknock Trust (apart from the Cwmdru road) contained in 1843, 183 miles of road, on which were 33 gates and bars. On the 13th of September, 1848, the Trustees ordered nine to be discontinued. As several of these were bars, at which little money was received, the reduction of annual receipts was not expected to exceed £200. The whole amount of money received from toll gates in 1843 was £6,476. The Act of Parliament required that the tolls collected in each of the 19 districts should be laid out on the roads within its limits. The whole amount was first put together into one fund, out of which was paid the interest of debt (the debt being £39,741); £500 was set aside as a sinking fund; the remainder was laid out on the roads in the district in which



it had been collected. Some of the districts were so unproductive that the Trustees, acting under counsel's opinion, charged the main line of road with the expenses and salaries of officials.

In Brecknockshire, only one gate was destroyed by rioters. The turnpike roads here were maintained by money arising out of the tolls; the farmers were not called upon to repair the roads, and the complaint, frequent in the other counties of South Wales, of having not only to pay tolls, but also to maintain the roads, was not heard in Brecknock. The tolls were very high, being 9d. for a horse drawing a carriage, 6d. for a cart, and 2d. for a saddle horse. The horses employed in South Wales at that time were small and weak, and the carts they drew incapable of containing a heavy load. A toll of sixpence on every such horse when drawing would, if tested by comparison of weight and power, be equal to nearly double the amount when collected on teams employed in the neighbouring English counties.

The South Wales Commission reported on the 6th of March, 1844, and a second Commission was sent to assess the various claims against the Trusts. On the amounts being ascertained, the Public Works Loan Commissioners advanced the money as a loan to be repaid by an annuity running over 30 years. The debt on Brecknock was assessed at £41,750, the annuity required for repayment being £2,191.

The South Wales Turnpike Act, which governed the main roads of South Wales until the establishment of County Councils in 1888, was passed in 1844. It provided that the Trusts of each county should be consolidated into one county trust, under a Committee, to be called the County Roads Board, consisting of 12 magistrates appointed by the Court of Quarter Sessions, 12 other members, and certain official personages. The general superintendence of the roads was vested in a Government officer, who was paid by, and reported annually to, Parliament. The funds of the Board were provided (1) by tolls, (2) by statutory labour, that is to say, haulage done without remuneration by farmers, (3) by a county road rate, which rate was to be kept separate from the county rate, and not to exceed in any year the annuity payable in that year, and, though levied on the occupier, it might be deducted by him from the rent payable to the owner; the last condition as to repayment being made in consideration of statutory contribution of labour, which might still be demanded from the occupier.

It is obvious that when by effluxion of time the annuity payable to the Public Works Loan Commissioners ceased, the power to levy a road rate must cease also. In 1875, then, the 30 years over which the debt ran being nearly expired, the South Wales Roads Amendment Act was passed, enabling a county roads rate to be continued, subject to the proviso that it should in no case exceed the maximum amount previously paid in any one year by way of annuity to the Public Works Loan Commissioners by the county.

The Court of Quarter Sessions reviewed in 1875 the roads of Brecknock. The turnpike roads had shrunk from 183 miles in 1843, to 118 miles, with 28 miles 627 yards of bridge approaches, certain roads having ceased to be controlled by the county. There were 232 bridges, the repair of which was done at county expense, and 1,186 miles of highway other than main roads within the county. There were then 23 toll gates within our limits; the produce of the tolls had sunk to £2,205, owing probably to the introduction of railways, no roads now retaining their value as through lines between county and county which they once possessed. In most instances the railways run parallel, and have diverted the through traffic which once passed over the roads.

In 1888 by the Local Government Act, the South Wales Turnpike Act was practically repealed; the road rate could no longer be levied, the County Roads Board ceased to exist, the management of the roads passed under the control of the County Council then established, and the English and Welsh legislation as to roads was assimilated.

At the first meeting of the County Roads Board of the County of Brecknock, held 22nd January, 1845, at the Shire Hall, it was resolved that—"It is expedient hereafter to maintain and continue the following as main roads in this county, namely,

"1. The main road commencing from the confines of the county of Carmarthen, and extending through the towns of Trecastle and Brecon, thence to Llsaintfread Church, through Crickhowell, to the confines of the county of Monmouth, on the road to Abergavenny.

"2. The road from Brecon by Capel Dyffryn Honddu to Builth.

"3. The road from the Three Cocks through Llyswen to Builth.

"4. From Builth to Tavern y pridd.

"5. The road from Talgarth through Bronllys to Llyswen.

"6. The road from Talgarth to Bwlch.

"7. The road from the town of Brecon by Pen Cerrig Cochion to join the Brecon and Hay main road.



"8. The road from Brecon through Glyn Tarrell to the confines of the county of Glamorgan in the direction of Merthyr Tydfil.

"9. The road from Brecon through Bronllys to Hay and the confines of the county of Hereford.

"10. The road extending from Blaentaff Gate on the Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil road over Hirwain Common to join the Glamorganshire turnpike road from Merthyr Tydfil to Neath.

"11. The road leading from or near Crickhowell bridge to join the turnpike road from Abergavenny to Rhyd y blew at or near Pentwyn Clydach in the parish of Llanelly."

Here note that the road from Abergavenny to Rhyd y blew, passing through the town of Brynmawr, although for some miles from the Baiden Brook to Rhyd y blew, within the county of Brecknock, did not come within the scope of the South Welsh Act, but was constructed under an Act to provide approaches to Abergavenny. It was adopted as a main road of Brecknock under a local Act of Parliament on the termination of the Abergavenny Trust in the year 1894.

At the same time the following, which had previously been main roads, were rejected, and discontinued as turnpike roads:—

1. The road from Pont neath fechan by Ystradfellte to the road leading from Brecon to Merthyr Tydfil.

2. The road from the Pont neath fechan road to the Lloscoed Gate through Defynock to the Trecastle and Brecon road, at or near Rhyd y brew.

3. The road from Capel Dyffryn Honddu over Newbridge on Irfon by Llwynmadoc to Llanfihangel Abergwessin, thence to the river Towey near Rhydarw to the confines of the county of Cardigan.

4. The road from Brecon by Battle and Pontfran to Merthyr Cynog.

5. So much of the road from Talgarth by Porthamal and the Three Cocks through Llysven as extends from Talgarth to Pontithel Bridge.

6. So much of the road from Builth by Tavern y pridd to Carmarthen as extends from Tavern y pridd to the confines of Carmarthen.

7. Also the road diverging from that last mentioned at or near Maescynffordd to Twyn coch fach.

8. So much of the road from Talgarth by the Bwlch over the "new" bridge near Llangynidr to Rhyd y blew, as extends from a point between Bwlch and Llangynidr to Rhyd y blew (the old Beaufort Road).

9. The road from Derwen y groes over the new bridge near Cefn crossing the Brecon and Abergavenny road near the second milestone from Brecon through the village of Llanfihangel-talyllyn over Henley Common to join the road from Talgarth to Bwlch, and from Llanfihangel-talyllyn to the village of Llangorse, and there joining the turnpike road from Talgarth to Bwlch.

10. The road from the Brecon and Hay turnpike road by the Tille Llanthomas, Tregoyd, and Velindre, and Gwernivet, to the turnpike road from Talgarth by Porthamal to the Three Cocks.

11. The road from the Brecon Furnace gate through the village of Llanddew to Garthbreny Common.

12. The road extending from the Brecon and Crickhowell main road to Nant y fin, and proceeding by Cwmdu Church to Talgarth.

13. The road from Porthmawr in the town of Crickhowell over Crickhowell Bridge past Glanusk Park, through Llangynidr and Talybont villages to Derwen y groes (Back road to Brecon).

#### THE JOINT COUNTIES' LUNATIC ASYLUM, ABERGAVENNY.

The Act of Parliament (8 and 9 Vic. c. 126) which rendered compulsory the erection of Asylums for Pauper Lunatics within three years became law on the 8th August, 1845. After preliminary negotiations, an agreement was entered into on September 13, 1847, between the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Brecknock, Radnor, and the City of Hereford, to form a Union for the erection of a joint lunatic asylum. The basis of agreement, amongst other things, was that of every pound expended on the erection of the building, Monmouthshire should contribute 8s. 2½d., Herefordshire 6s. 4d., Brecknock 3s 3d., Radnor 1s. 6½d., and the City of Hereford 8d., being in proportion to their respective populations. Mr. Thomas Fulljames, of Gloucester, who had recently erected an asylum at Denbigh, and had made additions to that of Gloucester, was appointed architect, a farm, called the Lower Farm, lying to the north of Abergavenny, separated from the town by the river Keny, was purchased for £120 an acre, and other land, about four and a half acres, were purchased at the same time. It possessed the advantages of a southern aspect, a cheerful view, close proximity to the town, an ample supply of water, and, as events afterwards proved, a railway station with a private siding on to the Asylum estate. The building was originally intended to accommodate 210 patients; by judicious arrangements it was made to hold 254. The estimate for the building was £23,867; and the actual cost of the site was £4,584, to which furniture, gas, entrance lodge, cemetery,



boundary wall, and appointments being added, the total cost proved to be £37,082, or £146 per bed. The share of these expenses allotted to Brecknock amounted to £6,025 19s. 9d. Dr. J. Steward Allen was appointed first medical superintendent, and commenced his duties on September 1, 1851. The Asylum immediately filled, and before the presentation of their first report the Committee had already contemplated the advisability of further building. The weekly charge for patients was ten shillings.

During the year 1857 thirteen acres of land were purchased for £1,580. The same year Dr. Allen died, and the Visitors recorded their sense of his valuable services and feared that the stress of work may have hastened his decease. The number of patients had by that time increased to 316. In order to meet the emergency, attics in the roof were fitted with beds, making a total accommodation for 370 patients. Before the improvement could be carried out, the number of patients had in 1858 mounted to 345, and the Committee directed plans to be prepared for an enlargement of the Asylum to contain 125 additional patients, which addition was carried out in the following year. In 1858, Dr. McCullough, of Edinburgh, was appointed medical superintendent, and the weekly charge for each patient was then 7s. 7d. This proved insufficient to defray the expense, and in 1860 the charge was raised to 8s. 6d. In 1860 the addition to the Asylum, and the Superintendent's house, had been completed at a cost of £7,500. The number of patients had, however, made a corresponding increase, partly in consequence of persons above the rank of paupers being sent in by the parish officers, with the understanding that their expenses should be repaid the Union by their relatives. The Asylum at that time would accommodate 466, and there was a margin of only 42 unoccupied beds.

Two years later the number of patients had increased to 485, an emergency which was met partly by using the farm buildings on the estate, and partly by sending 30 patients to board at the Worcester Asylum. These patients, however, cost 12s. 6d. per week, 4s. in excess of the charge at Abergavenny. The idea of breaking up the Union began now to be entertained, and the great cost of building a new Asylum made the smaller counties, who would probably have to build, strongly oppose the policy. Each year, however, the number of patients showed an increase: in 1869 there were in the Asylum 511, besides 124 boarded out at Dorset, Briton Ferry, Denbigh, and Fisherton. So a dissolution of the Union was determined upon, under which agreement it was arranged that Hereford County and City should build a fresh asylum, and the other three counties, Monmouth, Brecknock, and Radnor, remain in partnership as owners of the original institution.

It was startling to find that even after the dissolution of this old union, the accommodation would be insufficient for the patients of the three counties; the Visitors accordingly entered into an agreement with Hereford to receive in their new Asylum at Credenhill 30 patients, and with Fisherton house to receive seventeen. The agreed value of the Asylum with farm and three cottages, which had been recently purchased, was at the dissolution of the original union £56,000. The contributions of the new partners were settled as follows: namely, in each pound of expenditure, Monmouth to pay 15s. 1d., Brecknock 3s. 5d., Radnor 1s. 6d. The estimated value of the share of Brecknock was £9,566 13s. 4d. A further extension of the Asylum having become necessary, an expenditure of £6,400 was authorised by the local authorities, and an additional building to accommodate 64 male patients was commenced in the year 1874.

In the year 1878 the number of patients had again increased, and there were in the Asylum 523 lunatics, and there were 55 boarded out under contract at other asylums. The Monmouthshire visitors expressed their strong view that the union of the three counties should come to an end; the Brecknock and Radnor members "Were of opinion that the most economical plan for the necessary enlargement would be to erect the additional buildings on a site adjoining the existing asylum." After much discussion, plans were prepared for an extensive addition to the accommodation, for 100 men and 170 women; for a new chapel, dining hall, stores, workshops, &c. A tender was accepted from Messrs. Horsman to execute the new works for £42,000, exclusive of water storage.

In the year 1882, died Mr. Bosanquet, who had been chairman of Visitors since the commencement of the Asylum. In the following year Dr. McCullough retired through ill-health, only surviving his retirement a few months. He had gained a reputation for ability which extended far beyond the district with which he had been immediately connected. The result of his exertions in the administrative part of the management reduced the weekly cost of maintenance from 10s. 6d. to 8s. a head, a saving of £4,556 a year. He was succeeded by Dr. Glendinning, who had been second in command. The new buildings provided accommodation for 309 patients, the capacity of the Asylum being now raised to 830 beds. The low price of provisions, and the saving incident on the absence of necessity for boarding out, enabled the Committee in 1885 to reduce the charge for weekly maintenance to 7s. 3½d. This year the little mill, with about three acres of land, was added to the estate at a cost of £1,475; this provided extra water rights, and was in many ways a very desirable



purchase. The Asylum Estate at that time consisted of 76 acres of freehold, together with a leasehold farm of 127 acres rented at £150 per annum; 25 acres was utilised as Asylum site and 22 acres for pleasure ground and kitchen garden. The cost of the land had been £11,093; of the buildings (including repairs) £124,750—the total cost having been £135,844. There were 700 patients chargeable to the counties, 350 of each sex, and the cost of each patient was £18 12s. 7d. a year, or 7s. 1½d. per week.

#### DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

From the very commencement of the undertaking it has been seen that the number of patients chargeable to the counties had been steadily growing, the increase being chiefly due to the enormous growth of the population of Monmouthshire. Several attempts had been made on behalf of that county to get rid of Brecknock and Radnor. These tactics were for a long time successfully resisted in the interest of the smaller counties, but in the early spring of 1890, a Monmouthshire Councillor, Mr. T. Parry, moved a resolution at a meeting of the County Council, "That the time had arrived when it was desirable *in the interests of Monmouthshire* to dissolve with the counties of Brecknock and Radnor in the management of the Asylum at Abergavenny, and that the said counties should be paid out their share of the capital in the Asylum." He pointed out in a pamphlet that dissolution would relieve Monmouthshire of an expenditure of £2,000 a year, and begged the Council to look at the matter "from a commercial point of view without having any sentimental regard for the interests of Brecknock and Radnor."

The Abergavenny Asylum was a building admirably adapted to its purpose, built for the moderate cost of £149 per bed. Such an Asylum, or one suiting modern requirements, could not be built in 1897, the time of dissolution of partnership, for double the money. It is therefore evident that the compulsory sale of their property involved the smaller counties in a very serious loss. On March 29, 1894, the Visitors of the Asylum settled by a majority (consisting entirely of representatives of Monmouthshire) that the dissolution of partnership should take place on December 31, 1896, and a further resolution was passed, Brecknock and Radnor dissenting, that the sums to be paid by Monmouth to the outgoing counties should be—To Brecknock, £24,452 2s. 8d.; to Radnor, £10,325 11s. 4d.; being the amounts which those counties had respectively contributed to the existing asylum at Abergavenny, together with their contributions to any additional outlay between the date of the resolution and the dissolution of partnership, also their share of stock in hand and cash balances. This offer was rejected, and the matter in dispute was finally referred by the Secretary of State to Mr. A. Birrell, Q.C., M.P. His award was: To the County of Brecknock, £26,359; to the County of Radnor, £10,080, together with a share of the stock in hand and balances on the day of dissolution. These latter were to be divided in the following proportion: Monmouth £8 7s. 8d., Brecknock £1 17s. 11d. and Radnor 14s. 6d. in every £11 0s. 1d. The balances and stock amounted to £15,834 2s. 2d., of which Monmouth received £12,062 18s. 10d., Brecknock £2,727 19s. 0d., and Radnor £1,043 4s. 4d. The total amount received by the County of Brecknock was £29,086 19s. 0d., subject to an adjustment for pensions.

Radnorshire under the award, received on a forced sale for the advantage of Monmouthshire, a sum actually less than her share of the joint property had originally cost her. Both the smaller counties felt themselves treated with undue severity, while Monmouth admitted that the arrangements were largely to her advantage and to the disadvantage of the quondam partners.

This ends the history of the Union between Brecknock and other counties in the management of a Joint Lunatic Asylum at Abergavenny.

#### RECORDS OF QUARTER SESSIONS, VOL. 9: 1850-1856.

This Volume is the first that has an index attached.

The Court of Queen's Bench having decided that the County of Brecknock was liable for the repair of one half of Glasbury Bridge, at the Midsummer Sessions of 1850, Mr. Rennie, of Newport, was requested to report on the best means of restoration; the bridge was made passable for foot passengers, but it fell, so a ferry boat, in charge of a trustworthy man, was placed at the disposal of the public. Mr. Rennie was again consulted, and a Committee of Justices was appointed to discuss with Radnor the report he had prepared. Radnor, however, declined to meet the Brecknock deputation, and called in Mr. Grey, bridge surveyor, Hereford, as to the Radnor half of the bridge. Brecknock proceeded to advertise for tenders for half the bridge, the material to be wood with stone piers. The two counties united in building a central pier of stone, the estimate of which was £431 2s. 8d. The miserable result of this conflict of opinion was that the bridge erected was a structure with stone piers until mid-stream is reached, beyond which it is a wooden bridge resting upon trestles of wood. Some difficulty arose as to tenders: Mr. James' offer to construct the



Brecknock half for £2,585 being finally accepted, but Mr. James abandoned his contract in August, 1851, and Mr. Wylie undertook to rebuild half the bridge and the central pier for £2,800, so £5,000 was borrowed for this and other purposes from the National Life Association at a yearly interest of £3 18s. 6d. per centum. The County Surveyor was directed to give his exclusive attention to the work, and to employ his son to discharge the other duties of his office.

In the year 1852 we find that the parish of Glasbury (south of the Wye) formerly in Radnor, was placed within the County of Brecknock. On July 26, 1853, a great flood occurred, the Usk and Wye rising simultaneously: eight county bridges were entirely destroyed and forty-six damaged. Immediately action was taken, and fords were constructed until the bridges could be replaced, three sums, each of £1,000, being borrowed for the purpose of re-construction. Eight persons perished by drowning, and the newspapers of the period contained graphic descriptions of the disaster; and in the *Illustrated London News* there appeared some sketches made by a Mr. Teale of Brecon, a very clever draughtsman, of the devastations caused in Brecon.

In the year 1854 an important re-arrangement of Petty Sessional divisions was ordered. The Hay division was carried out of that of Talgarth: it consisted of Hay, Llanigon, Glynfach, Glasbury, Tregoyd, and Felindre. Llanfillo, Llandefaelog-Tregraig with the hamlets of Tredustan and Trefeinon (formerly in the Pencelly division) were added to Talgarth. Grwyne-fawr and Grwyne-fechan, then hamlets in the parish of Talgarth, but since made into separate parishes, were detached from Talgarth and placed within the petty sessional division of Crickhowell. The upper part of St. David's parish, till then in Defynock division, Talachddu, Garthbrengy, and Llanddew, all in Pencelly, were placed in the Merthyr division, and Llandilo'rfân, formerly in Merthyr, was added to the Defynock division.

As from time to time prices of agricultural produce became a matter of interest, it may be well to note that contract prices in 1850 were: Bread, 4lb. loaf, 4½d.; meat, 5d. per lb.; oatmeal, 12s. per cwt.; potatoes, 6s. per cwt.; coals, per ton delivered, 16s 6d. In 1853, 1854, and 1855, the Crimean War was raging, and the corn of Russia no longer reached the markets of England, bread therefore which in 1850 had been fourpence farthing the four pound loaf, more than doubled, the price running up to ninepence. Meat, which was not then imported in large quantities, remained unaffected; oatmeal rose to 21s., probably in sympathy with flour.

#### BILL FOR BETTER HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT.

In 1851, highway legislation for South Wales was commenced, and an Act was introduced by Lord Emlyn and passed entitled "An Act for the better management and control of the South Wales highways." The Brecknock Court petitioned against it: "Exceptional legislation for Wales was objectionable in principle and prejudicial in practice;" considerable expense must be incurred "which in the present distressed state of agriculture it is most desirable to avoid; the Bill was an experiment, let it be tried on Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan, and not forced on the other counties; if the measure prove beneficial, your petitioners assume it will be extended to the whole Kingdom, but while it is an experiment the smaller the area the better." But, the Act having passed, the County was divided into highway districts. Brecon Borough, inclusive of Christ College and the Castle Inn, and exclusive of Llywel, was constituted a district; the districts of Pencelly, Merthyr Cynog, and Defynock, were made into one district, an arrangement which strikes the modern mind as inconvenient—it was probably adopted to conciliate the dignity of the Borough. Brynmawr was made a separate district from Crickhowell, a portion of the parishes of Llangattock and Llanelly "as described in the report of G. Thos. Clark, Esq., superintending inspector to the Board of Health, dated 22 Sept., 1849"—which, to those who had not a copy of that report, seems a vague definition; it pointed darkly to more modern legislation then simmering in the minds of administrators. Penderyn, Vaynor, Ystradfellte, Ystradgunlais, with the hamlets of Glyntawe, Nantddu, and Hepste, were joined under the name of the Southern district, an arrangement which was afterwards abandoned. In all, seven districts were constituted: 1, Brecon; 2, Brynmawr; 3, Builth; 4, Crickhowell; 5, Pencelley, &c.; 6, Southern district; 7, Talgarth.

#### RECORDS OF QUARTER SESSIONS, VOL. 10: 1856-1866.

This Volume contains but little of interest. The conclusion of the Crimean War, the readier importation of agricultural produce, and the opening of local railways to Brecon, reduced the contract prices of stores for the Gaol. Bread which in 1856 stood at 2d. per lb. fell to less than three half-pence; meat was contracted for at 7d.; oatmeal fell from 20s. to 15s. the hundred weight; while coal, probably owing to cheaper carriage, fell from 16s. to 12s. a ton. In the year 1856 was passed an Act of Parliament (19-20 Vic. c. 69) rendering compulsory the establishment of a County police force; accordingly at the Epiphany Sessions 1857, two superintendents, six sergeants, and twenty constables were appointed. Mr. Edmund Roderick Gwynne was elected chief constable at a



yearly salary of £250, and at the Michaelmas Sessions the constables were divided into two classes, the pay being respectively 19s. and 17s. per week. A superannuation fund was instituted, and at Michaelmas 1858 there stood to its credit £131. This and all future sums which might accumulate were directed to be invested in the names of two justices as trustees in such public funds and Government securities as the said trustees should deem proper. We might here add that Mr. E. R. Gwynne held the office of Chief Constable for the long period of 48 years, resigning in 1905. He died at Llanthetty Hall and was buried in the parish churchyard of Llanthetty. He was succeeded in the office by Captain W. Morgan Thomas (elder son of the late Morgan Thomas, Esq., J.P., of Glyn-Garth, Brecon). Capt. Thomas had for several years been deputy head-constable at Swansea; he held the Breconshire appointment barely two years, dying after a very brief illness at the age of 42. He was buried in the family burial ground in the Brecon Cemetery. Capt. Arthur Stuart Williams (a son of the late County Court Judge Gwilym Williams) was appointed chief to succeed Capt. Thomas; and, having acquired the Pontywall Mansion and estate, resides there.

At Michaelmas 1857, the Penderyn Petty Sessional division was formed out of the former divisions of Defynock and Ystradgunlais; and at Midsummer in the same year Mr. John Jones, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, retired, having held the office for 17 years. In 1865 cattle plague, or steppe murrain, originating amongst the herds on the Russian steppes, spread over Europe, and was brought by foreign cattle to London. In a brief space it was carried to all parts of England, where, after causing frightful losses, it was stamped out by the resolute slaughter of all affected animals and of others which had been in contact with them. At the Epiphany Sessions, 1866, the Justices of Brecknock deemed it expedient to forbid the removal of all cattle within the county to market or fair, and further to decree it unlawful to bring any such animal from any other place into the county of Brecknock; exception being made in favour of fat stock already within the county, which it was obviously necessary to send to the butcher for slaughter. At an adjournment the prohibition was extended to sheep and swine, and to the introduction of untanned hides, horns, hoofs, and offal, and to other articles which, it was feared, might propagate infection. The services of veterinary surgeons were secured as inspectors in various districts of the county, and the duty of carrying out the orders of the Court was entrusted to a large committee of Justices, to whom were subsequently added the names of well-known men of science and large agriculturists. Under the guidance of this Committee the Inspectors were ordered to slaughter any animal affected with cattle plague, and to bury it in its skin, with at least three bushels of quicklime, in a grave not less than six feet in depth. Animals which had been in contact with diseased stock might, with the assent of the Committee, be slaughtered, in which case a sum not exceeding £25 would be awarded as compensation to the owner. Happily the County remained free from this fearful disease.

#### RECORDS OF QUARTER SESSIONS, VOL. 11: 1866-1874.

The Eleventh Volume covers the period from 1866 to 1874. The contract prices for necessities at Brecon varied as follows: Coal, which in 1866 cost 11s. 6d. per ton, in 1872 rose to 15s. 10d. and in 1873-4 stood at 23s. and 24s. per ton, having doubled in price in three years. Bread from 1866 to 1871 was 1½d. per lb.; it gradually rose and in 1874 cost 1¾d. Meat, 8d. per lb. in 1866, dropped to 6d. in 1870-71, when it rose, the highest price being reached in 1873 at 7½d. per lb.; in 1874 it had dropped to 7d. Oatmeal varied in price from 19s. to 20s. per cwt., the average being about 20s.

#### THE CORONERS.

Coroners, whose duties are now practically confined to holding inquests in case of sudden death, have always been elected, and the Coroner is primarily an officer of the county elected by the freeholders. In certain districts the appointment is made by the Crown, or lords holding a charter from the Crown. Within the county of Brecknock the Coroner, in the Hundred of Crickhowell, is appointed by the Lord of the Manor, His Grace the Duke of Beaufort. In the remainder of the County these officers are appointed by the local authority, that is so say, since the year 1888, by the County Council. In the year 1844 an Act had been passed (7-8 Vic., cap. 92) empowering the Justices of Quarter Sessions, when they should deem it expedient, to petition the Crown praying that the county under their control should be divided into districts. Such a petition was resolved on at the Michaelmas Sessions, 1866. There were then two Coroners for the County (other than the hundred of Crickhowell), but no districts had been assigned to them, and inconvenience had resulted. The Justices therefore, having conferred with the Coroners in office, and taken into consideration population, amount of work, &c., petitioned Queen Victoria that the County should be divided into two districts, one consisting of the hundred of Defynock including the Petty Sessional divisions of Ystradgunlais and Penderin, the parishes in the hundred of Pencelly, and the parish of St. David's in the



Borough of Brecon, to be called the Southern district. The other district was to consist of the parishes of St. John and St. Mary in the Borough of Brecon, the hundreds of Builth, Merthyr, and Talgarth, including the Petty Sessional districts of Hay, to be called the Northern district. The reply does not seem to be recorded, but the scheme must have been carried out, as the North and South divisions, as they still exist at the time of writing, and correctly described in the petition.

In 1860 an Act had been passed to amend the law relating to the payment of County Coroners. There shall be paid to every Coroner, in lieu of fees, mileage, and allowances, such annual salary as shall be agreed upon between him and the Justices. In default of agreement the Secretary of State for the Home Department was required to fix the salary, having regard to the average fees, the number of inquests, and special circumstances. At the end of five years such salary was subject to revision. Five years had passed since the last revision, and in 1871 the Justices, carefully considering the facts, assign in each case a salary somewhat in excess of the fees. The division of the County having involved one officer in loss, and the others alleging special circumstances, Dr. James Williams was to have £55 a year, Mr. D. W. J. Thomas £50, and Mr Lewis (Crickhowell) £70, which salaries were the same as late as 1899.

#### CATTLE PLAGUE IN ENGLAND.

Cattle plague still existed in England, but the precautions taken against it had become a grievous burden in Brecknock, and accordingly at Easter, 1866, a resolution was carried that in order to facilitate the removal of cattle on change of tenancy, or for breeding purposes, or on change of pasture, for a period of 13 days commencing on the 3rd day of April, any animal may be removed from any uninfected district in any adjoining County into this County, or out of this County to any other place, with a licence signed by a justice. A rate of one farthing in the pound was ordered to pay for the precautionary measures; a similar rate was raised in 1867. In November, 1866, application was made to the Privy Council for permission to hold Cattle Markets at Builth, Hay, Talgarth, and Crickhowell, and the re-opening of the Markets was announced; fairs were to be re-opened also. The Secretary of State gave the necessary orders, which orders were renewed from time to time, the last entry being at Midsummer, 1868. In 1869 a Contagious Diseases Animals' Act was passed, under the powers of which the Justices appointed a Committee and a veterinary inspector, who was instructed to report quarterly to the Court. In 1872 foot and mouth disease broke out amongst the cattle; not so fatal as cattle plague, it was nevertheless a most serious scourge. Calves that were allowed to suck at the stricken mother died; those that had been given milk that had been boiled survived. Amongst older animals, few deaths took place, but grave constitutional effects followed contagion, and animals once tainted seldom entirely regained a healthy condition. An attempt was made to prevent the spread of the disease by instituting strict isolation, but few herds escaped the contagion.

#### THE CONDITION OF THE COUNTY GAOL.

In 1865 an Act had been passed dealing with the discipline of prisons. Thereupon, in January, 1868, letters had been received from the Secretary of State as to the condition of the County Gaol; and the Justices replied that a large portion of the prison was devoted to debtors, that the law was likely to be changed as to imprisonment for debt, and that the time for improvement was not convenient. Possibly the Secretary of State took a different view, as at Midsummer the Surveyor was instructed to prepare a plan to improve eight female cells according to the directions of the recent Act of Parliament. The cells were to be certified by an inspector; they were to be of such a size, and to be lighted, warmed, and fitted up in such a manner as may be necessary for health. The Surveyor reported that he found it impracticable to prepare the plan as ordered. At Epiphany, 1869, the Justices had taken a larger view of the matter, and offered a premium of £30 for the best plan of alterations, including a new governor's house, to meet the requirements of the Act of 1865. In May a Committee reported that it was necessary to enlarge and improve the Gaol to meet the requirement of the Act, and the plans of Mr. T. F. Fillyer were adopted subject to modification; the Secretary of State was informed that the County were thinking of raising £6,500 for the purpose. The tenders, when received, were considerably higher than the estimate, and the plans were sent back to the Architect for revision. He carried the slating over the tops of the walls, and the Governor's house was not to be pulled down at that time. The contract was then placed with Messrs. Williams and Sons, builders, of Llanfaes, Brecon, at £7,198. An advertisement for a loan was inserted in the local papers: "Wanted to borrow, a sum not exceeding £7,000, payable by thirty equal instalments with interest. The Justices wish the advance made in the following manner, viz., £2,000 now (in January, 1870), £2,000 in July, and £3,000 in January, 1871." The offer of the Crown Insurance Society was accepted, the interest to be 4½ per cent. per annum; and at Easter Sessions a contract



was signed with gentlemen representing the Crown Insurance Society. The prisoners were removed to Hereford until the new prison was ready, Brecknock to pay to Hereford the weekly sum of 10s. for each prisoner.

#### THE PRISON GOVERNOR'S HOUSE.

The new Governor's house had been proceeded with, and Mr. Lazenby moved into it Midsummer, 1871. At the same time £1,000 Consols, part of the sum invested from the Gaol loan, was sold out to meet the Gaol payments, a fact of some interest to those who govern the County in 1900, when the County has again to borrow, as showing the inconvenience of having money in hand before it is required. At Midsummer, 1872, a further loan of £1,000 was obtained from the Crown Insurance Company. At Michaelmas, 1873, Mr. Fillyard, the architect, presented his report, by which it appeared that £1,423 7s. 6d. was due to the Contractors for extras in place of their much greater demands, which, however, they declined to accept. Anyhow, a further loan from the Crown Insurance Company of £1,000 was necessary. At the Epiphany Sessions, 1874, a Committee was appointed as to arbitration with the Contractors, and at the Epiphany Sessions, Messrs. Williams and Son made an offer to accept half the additional money claimed, viz., £1,111 5s. 6d., which the Justices accepted as a compromise, each party to pay their own costs.

At the Easter Sessions, 1870, a letter was received from the Home Secretary advising the photographing of prisoners as a means of identifying habitual criminals. The plan was adopted, and the prisoners being at Hereford a photographer of that town undertook the work for two shillings a portrait. This incident shows the advance even then taking place in the various uses of photography.

Brynawr Petty Sessional Division was formed in accordance with a statement received at the Epiphany Sessions, 1870. It originally consisted of the parcels of Duffryn Upper in the parish of Llangynidr, of Prisk Upper in the parish of Llangattock, and of so much of the parish of Llanelly as is within the district of the Brynmawr Board of Health. The district was carved out of Crickhowell, and subsequent legislation has largely altered its boundaries. The matter was completed and the district formed on June 1st, 1870. Brynmawr Justices' Room, necessary no doubt now that the new district had been formed, was ordered to be built early in 1873 at a cost not exceeding £250, to which £75 was added for furniture.

#### COUNTY EXPENDITURE IN 1871.

At the Epiphany Sessions, 1871, the Justices undertook a comparative survey of county expenditure during the ten years last past. It is still an interesting document. The expenses varied very little, and averaged about £10,000 a year. Police cost in 1861, £2,217; in 1870 the charge was £2,740; now in 1899 the charge had risen to nearly £5,000 a year. Bridges averaged £1,200; the charge varied little, and still remains about the same figure. There had been large bridge loans due to the substitution of stone for wooden structures, and this was a charge in 1861 of £465; ten years later it had been paid off. The main roads were chiefly supported by tolls; the payment of public debt, contracted for reasons described elsewhere, necessitated a county road rate, an annual charge of about £2,200. The Gaol, now His Majesty's Prison, but in 1861 supported by the ratepayers, was responsible for an annual charge of about £1,000, besides which there was the loan for enlargement, necessitating a charge of £300 a year. As to the Lunatic Asylum, the loan being gradually paid off, this cost at the commencement of the account £906, and in 1871 £340. Justices' Clerks, now a charge of about £1,100 a year, were then paid by fees, and do not appear in the account. In those early days many things now charged on the rates were defrayed out of other sources of revenue; on the whole it will perhaps be found that the county expenditure has not largely increased since the introduction of popular government. The history of the Lunatic Asylum at Abergavenny has been given elsewhere in this work, and it only remains to state here that chronologically the new agreement on the retirement of Hereford from partnership was recorded at the Easter Sessions, 1871.

#### ILLNESS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

In the autumn of 1871 the heart of the nation had been deeply moved by the desperate illness of His Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (King Edward VII.). The danger happily passed, and at their first meeting in 1872, the County Justices presented an address of sympathy to Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the restoration of the Prince to health.

Government had in 1872 consented to make annual grants to counties to assist in the maintenance of the Police. The Justices of Brecknock returned the Chief Constable's salary at £250 and £50 for forage allowance, which latter item the Exchequer declined to admit. The Justices therefore at



Easter, 1872, withdrew the forage allowance, and added £50 to the salary in lieu thereof. This was a shrewd device, but the Government declined to admit the change, and calculated their grant accordingly.

## NEW BALLOT ACT.

In 1872 the Ballot Act had been passed, altering the mode of voting from open voting to a system of secret voting. Amongst its many provisions was one that each voter should as far as practicable have a polling place within four miles of his residence. Immediately on the passing of the Act at Michaelmas, 1872, the Justices divided the county into fifteen polling districts, viz., (1) Brecon, (2) Brynmawr, (3) Builth, (4) Cefn, (5) Crickhowell, (6) Defynock, (7) Duke'stown, (8) Hay, (9) Llanafan, (10) Llanwrtyd, (11) Lower Chapel, (12) Penderyn, (13) Talgarth, (14) Talybont, (15) Ystradgunlais. This arrangement has since been twice modified; at the present time (1899) there are 23 polling places, and a further revision seems likely in the immediate future (*see Records for 1877*).

In 1873 Mr. Edward Williams resigned his office as Clerk of the Peace, which he had held for 26 years. Mr. David Thomas, solicitor, of Brecon, was appointed his successor (*see Mayors of Brecknock*). Owing to the establishment of the County Police and other causes the work had considerably increased; and at Michaelmas it was agreed that Mr. Thomas should receive a salary of £250 a year in lieu of fees, except such as were received by the late Clerk of the Peace.





## CHAPTER X.

Records of Quarter Sessions, Vol. 12: 1874—1882. Vol. 13: 1883; and General County History to the year 1903.

THE twelfth volume contains the record from 1874 to 1882. Between the years 1840-1850, the railway system of England had started its existence, and the Metropolis had been connected with every centre of population in the kingdom. Lines had been constructed to Shrewsbury, to Hereford, and to Gloucester, and thence along the South Coast of Monmouth and Wales to Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, and Milford. In 1850 these great arteries of traffic had been connected by a line running from Shrewsbury through Hereford to Newport, skirting the borderland of Wales. During the ten years from 1860 to 1870, Brecon had been connected with Swansea and Hereford, a second line ran to Merthyr and thence to Brynmawr and Abergavenny, while the north of the county was served by the Cambrian and Mid-Wales Railways, leaving the Hereford and Brecon line at Three Cocks and passing northward to Builth Road, at which point the line was crossed by the North-Western railway from Craven Arms to Carmarthen. The valuation of the railways for rating purposes was a matter of considerable difficulty; and at Michaelmas, 1874, a Committee was appointed, who reported that the Companies were much undervalued. They therefore engaged the services of Mr. Headley a well known valuer. His award does not appear in the Record, but a sum was agreed upon which was satisfactory both to the Railway Companies and to the County Authority.

### PRISON TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Contract prices in 1874 to 1877 were as follows: Bread remained at three halfpence a pound, meat at 7d; coal sank to 13s. 6d. per ton from 18s. Under an Act of Parliament, in the year 1877 the necessity for contracts ceased, and Prisons were transferred to the Secretary of State, their maintenance and that of the prisoners therein being, after the commencement of the Act, defrayed out of the moneys provided by Parliament (Sec. 33). Power was given to the Secretary of State to discontinue any prison, provided that in every county there remained at least one prison, and even this limitation might be foregone if the Secretary of State for special reasons so ordered. When a prison was discontinued, a re-conveyance was to be offered to the Local Authority at a price of £120 per cell. Where more than adequate accommodation had been provided a sum was paid out of the National Exchequer to the Local Authority. The Act was of benefit to the ratepayers, and welcomed by them. Under its provisions the prison at Brecon was on the 1st of April, 1878, transferred to the Secretary of State. The Governor, Mr. Lazenby, after a service of 41 years, retired on a pension of £143 a year; his wife, who had acted as Matron, receiving a further pension of £57. In the following year an order was made by the Secretary of State for the closing of the prison, the special reason being that the average number of prisoners had been only 27. The offer was made of re-conveyance of the prison to the Local Authority on a payment into the Exchequer of £3,253; the Court did not desire to re-purchase, but thought it for the public interest that the prison should remain open for the reception of prisoners awaiting trial. The Secretary of State consented to this course provided that the Justices would forego any claim to compensation they might have under the Act. This, however, they declined to do, urging their claim to be paid for surplus cells, for which the Government made an offer of £480 and a further offer to purchase a small field adjoining at the rate of £150 an acre.

With regard to the amount of compensation the Justices at Michaelmas, 1880, again addressed the Home Secretary: "They had transferred to the State a most perfect prison complete in every respect, with sufficient accommodation to meet the future wants of the county. Great expense had been incurred in re-building at the instance of the Government itself. The town of Brecon had lately been made a military depôt. In the immediate neighbourhood was a large mining population." When this letter was despatched the Government had changed, and Sir William Vernon Harcourt was Home Secretary. On the 6th of December, 1879, shortly before the date of the above letter, a Brecknock prisoner, confined in Hereford Gaol, suddenly died. It was stated that the prison was overcrowded; it had undoubtedly been full. There appeared to be no maladministration, but the fact of this prisoner's death may not have been without weight in the ultimate decision as to Brecon Prison. Sir W. Harcourt re-opened the question of the amount of compensation, now offering a sum





H. POWELL POWEL, ESQ.,  
OF CASTLE MADOC.

*(High Sheriff 1870.)*



HOWEL GWYN, ESQ.,  
OF ABERCRAF, DUFFRYN.

*(High Sheriff 1844.)*



RICHARD DOUGLAS GOUGH, ESQ.,  
OF YNISCEDWYN.

*(High Sheriff 1840.)*



J. WILLIAMS-VAUGHAN, ESQ.,  
OF VELINNEWYDD.

*(High Sheriff 1855.)*







of £1,320, an addition of £57 being made as the price of the small adjoining field; this latter sum was subsequently raised to £65, and the long discussed question was settled at the close of the year 1880.

At the Easter Sessions, 1876, it was proposed to form a new Petty Sessional Division at Llanwrtyd; difficulties however, arose owing to the paucity of justices resident in that neighbourhood. Llanwrtyd, therefore, remains within the division of Builth; but it was resolved that for the public convenience a meeting of the Justices should be held there once a month, in addition to the usual sessional meeting at Builth.

The new police station at Brecon was completed before the end of the year 1874. The police station at Crickhowell being leasehold, it became necessary in 1878 to build a new one, and a freehold site was purchased from Dr. E. Parry for £1,000, at which price it had been valued by the County Surveyor, the money being borrowed from the Police Superannuation Fund. Three cells were built, and the house adapted at a further cost of £474; the whole work being finished by the spring of 1880. A new police station was commenced at Hay in 1874, the tender being for £1,528; a loan for the purpose was advanced from the superannuation fund.

In the year 1851, an Act of Parliament had been passed enacting, amongst other matters, that it should be lawful for Justices to pay the Clerks of Petty Sessions by salary in lieu of fees, the fees being paid to the Treasurer of the County. In 1877 the principal Act was made compulsory, and in future there was to be but one clerk for each petty sessional division, save when Petty Sessions were held at two places. The Clerk was to be of legal knowledge or experience, and be paid by salary. At Michaelmas, 1877, the Justices of Brecknock took the matter into consideration; an amount was arrived at based upon the average of fees received during the preceding five years, with an addition of five per cent. on the actual amount paid annually to the County Treasurer. This arrangement not receiving the sanction of the Secretary of State, the five per cent. was added in the form of a fixed addition of salary, and the total amount of each Petty Sessional district was fixed as follows: Builth, £143; Brynmawr, £213; Crickhowell, £123; Defynock, £84; Hay, £113; Merthyr and Pencelly, £126; Penderyn, £144; Talgarth, £122; Ystradgunlais, £98; the total cost to the county being £1,166, a sum which experience has shown is not entirely covered by the amount of fees paid to the Treasurer.

At Easter, 1877, Mr. Penry Williams, of Penpont, announced his resignation of the office of Chairman of Quarter Sessions; and the Justices placed on record their regret at his decision, and their sympathy with the indifferent health which was the cause of it. At the Midsummer Sessions the Rev. Hugh Bold, son of a previous holder of the office, was appointed chairman.

Five years having passed since the County had been divided into polling districts, and experience having suggested certain alterations, additional polling places were ordered at the Epiphany Sessions, 1878, at Cefncoedcymmer, Trecastle, Erwood, and Talybont (*see 11th Vol. of Records*).

#### THE FLOODS IN LLANFAES.

On Sunday, October 8, 1876, the Usk and Tarrall had been in heavy flood, and the water had overwhelmed the district of Llanfaes; the houses and shops being under water to the depth of four feet. At Epiphany Sessions, 1878, a memorial from the inhabitants was received by the Justices praying that some method might be adopted for the prevention of a recurrence of the calamity. The opinion of Mr. G. W. Keeling, C.E., was taken, and by his advice a committee recommended the removal of rubbish tipped above the bridge with the view of clearing the waterway, and certain alterations in the bank for the same object. Doubts, however, were felt as to the powers of the Justices and a case was submitted to Mr. Paterson, who was of opinion that the Justices, being neither River Conservators nor Commissioners of Sewers, had no power to interfere with the bed or banks of the river, except only when necessary repair to the bridge made such interference imperative, their powers being limited to those of a highway authority, the safety of the highway being their sole responsibility. One might be inclined to ask here, if the rubbish tipped on the banks, and in the bed, of the river caused the floods which overflowed into the adjacent highways to the extent of four-feet deep, could such highways be deemed safe? It was also declared that the cost of flood prevention could not be charged on the county rate. So the floods were allowed, so far as the Court was concerned, to make the existence of the inhabitants of Llanfaes almost unbearable at certain seasons. Before leaving this subject, it should be stated that when official bodies failed, a private member of the Court, in the person of Mr John Lloyd, made a study of this problem. He raised an embankment at the Gwtws, and did other work, at a considerable cost, and it is a fact to be recorded, that since 1899, although many heavy floods have come down the rivers, the waters have not overflowed into the main streets of Llanfaes. Some of the cost of this work was raised by public subscription, but a large share of the charge fell upon Mr. John Lloyd personally.



At Easter, 1882, a painting of Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, formerly Lord Lieutenant of the County, and M.P. for the Borough, was presented to the County by the Misses Mohun-Harris, and hung in the Grand Jury Room.

#### RECORD OF QUARTER SESSIONS : VOL. 13.

Section one commences at 1883 and extends to the election of the first County Council. At the commencement of the year 1883, a proposition was received on behalf of the County of Hereford that the magistrates of the Bredwardine division should hold their Petty Sessional meetings in the new Court House at Hay, and by Midsummer an agreement had been arrived at that the Bredwardine justices should have the joint use of the room at all times when it was not required for Hay Petty Sessions; the Bredwardine Justices to have first right to the room on the second Monday in every month, on which day they held their Petty Sessions, Hereford paying to Brecknock the annual sum of £20. A similar application being made by the County of Radnor for the use of the Builth Justices' Room, the matter was dealt with by a committee appointed for the purpose.

In the spring of 1883, died the Rev. Hugh Bold, M.A., Chairman of Quarter Sessions. The Justices in Quarter Sessions assembled, in affectionate remembrance, recorded their deep sense of the loss they had sustained. Sir Joseph Russell Bailey, Bart., M.P., Lord Lieutenant, was elected chairman to succeed him.

A new County Rate basis was agreed to, the summary being as follows: Brecknock Union, £115,107 14s. 0d.; Builth, £33,879 16s. 4d.; Crickhowell, £59,337 0s. 6d.; Hay, £36,978 10s. 2d.; Llandovery, £4,073 18s. 10d.; Merthyr Tydfil, £14,720 0s. 9d.; Neath, £4,557 5s. 0d.; Rhayader, £2,497 12s. 6d.; Pontardawe, £11,227 5s. 6d. Total, £282,397 3s. 7d. Some modifications in the Valuation of Railways were afterwards made with the approval of Hedley, the valuer.

Justices' Clerks' salaries were reconsidered "on the basis of fines and fees paid to the County Treasurer during the past five years." In the case of Builth it was taken into consideration that the work at Llanwrtyd was not adequately represented by fines and fees. At Michaelmas, 1884, the Home Secretary made the following order as to salaries: Builth, £130; Brynmawr, £210; Crickhowell, £110; Devynock, £80; Hay, £95; Penderyn, £90; Talgarth, £100; and Ystradgunlais, £98.

Dr. McCollough, superintendent of Abergavenny Joint Counties' Asylum, retired at Michaelmas, 1883, after a service of 25 years, during which time he had earned a great reputation as a specialist on mental diseases. The Visitors assigned him a pension of £750 a year, but he only survived a few months.

The Court at this time undertook the Revision of its *Rules and Orders of Procedure*, and the new Rules came into force at Easter, 1884.

#### COUNTY SCHOLARSHIPS.

A South Wales University College having been established at Cardiff, a public meeting was held at the Shire Hall, Brecon, on Monday, January 7, 1884, at which it was resolved unanimously to form by subscription a fund of one thousand pounds to provide one or more scholarships to be held by Brecknockshire students at the University College. At the end of the year 1886 an amount of £1,040 9s. 6d. had been placed to the credit of the fund, of which David Evans, Esq., J.P., of Ffrwdgrech, was treasurer, and Mr. Thomas Butcher, of the Middle Class Private School, secretary. The first examination was held at Cardiff in January, 1887, when two scholarships, each of the annual value of £20, were awarded. In 1897, in consequence of a deficiency of candidates, the unpaid instalments had accumulated, and the trustees were enabled to increase the scholarship by the annual amount of £2. The first intention of the subscribers in October, 1886, had been that one scholarship of forty pounds a year should be open to boys "resident in the county of Brecknock for ten years last past," to be an entrance scholarship tenable only at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. These resolutions were on November 25, 1886, submitted to the University Authorities, who replied that they thought two scholarships of £20 each preferable, the successful candidates being in addition allowed to hold College exhibitions if gained by open competition. Acting on this advice the Committee divided the money into two scholarships of £20 each. In December, 1901, it was found that the scholarships had frequently been vacant, and that a balance of £357 10s. 0d. stood to the credit of the trustees, which enabled them to augment the two scholarships, each to be worth £27 annually.

By the Corrupt Practices Act, 1883, it had been enacted that every County should be divided into polling districts in such a manner that, so far as was reasonably possible, every resident elector should have his polling place within three miles of his home, so nevertheless that a polling district need not be constituted containing less than one hundred votes. And by a subsequent enactment



in 1885, the duty of carrying out the measure was laid upon the Local Authority, at that time the Court of Quarter Sessions. At Midsummer the Finance Committee deemed it advisable to report what alterations was in their judgment necessary to adapt the existing districts to the altered state of the electoral law. New polling places were required at Llanwrthwl, Talyllyn, Cwmdu, and Llanelly, and though the Record does not seem to mention any order upon this report, it was no doubt made. Since that time another polling place has been added at Llangynidr, and, so constituted, the polling districts and places remain unaltered at the date of writing in 1899 :

## POLLING PLACES IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK, 1899.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Places Contained Within the Polling District.</i>
1. Llanwrthwl.....	Parish of Llanwrthwl.
*2. Llanwrtyd.....	Llandulais, Llanwrtyd, Abergwessin, Treflys, Penbualt.
3. Llanafan.....	Llanlleonfel.
4. Builth.....	Builth Urban, Builth Rural, Rhosferig, Llanganten, Llanynis, Maesmynis, Llangynnog, Llandewi'r cwm, Alltmawr.
5. Erwood.....	Gwenddwr and Crickadarn.
6. Talgarth.....	In Hay Union : Talgarth, Llanellieu, Llyswen, Bronllys. Brecknock Union : Llandefalle, Llanfillo, Trawscoed.
7. Glasbury.....	Pipton, Aberllynfi, Tregoyd and Velindre, Llanigon.
8. Hay.....	Glynfach, Hay.
9. Cefn.....	Cefn, Gelly, Duffryn, Nantddu.
10. Penderyn.....	Hepste, Penderyn, Ystradfellte.
11. Ystradgunlais.....	Ystradgunlais Lower, Palleg, Ystradgunlais Higher, Glyntawe.
12. Trecastle.....	Traianglas, Traianmawr.
13. Defynock.....	Yselydach, Penpont, Maescar, Llandilorfan, Llanfihangel nant bran, Trallong, Senny, Cray, Glyn.
14. Brecknock.....	St. David, St. John, St. Mary, Castle Inn, Christ College, Modrydd, Llanspyddid, Cantref, Llanfrynach, Llanhamlach, Llanddew, Talachddu, Battle, Aberyskir, Venny fach.
15. Lower Chapel ..	Garthbrenghy, Llandefaelog fach, Merthyr Cynog, Llanfihangel fechan.
16. Talybont.....	Llanfigan, Llanthetty, Llansantffread, Cathedine [Llangynidr, at first in Talybont district, has since been formed into a separate district.]
*17. Talyllyn.....	Llanwern, Llangasty Talyllyn, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llandefaelog tregraig, Llangorse.
17a. Llangynidr ..	Electoral Division of Llangynidr [made a separate division in 1894 to prevent Crickhowell Rural District overlapping Brecknock.]
18. Crickhowell ..	Grwyne fawr, Grwyne fechan, Patricio, Llanbedr, Llangenau, Crickhowell, Llangattock.
19. Cwmdu.....	The Parish of Cwmdu.
*20. Llanelly.....	Electoral Divisions of Gilwern and Llanelly.
21. Brynmawr.....	The Urban District of Brynmawr.
22. Duke's Town....	Beaufort, Rassa, Duke's Town, Llech Rhyd, (The places in Duke's Town district are within the administrative County of Monmouth, and may possibly be placed hereafter in the Parliamentary County of Monmouth also.)

(The Districts marked with an asterisk were newly formed in 1885 ; the district marked 17a. was not formed till 1894).

## ABERGAVENNY AND TREDEGAR ROAD.

The Turnpike Trust under which the road from Abergavenny to Tredegar had been administered came to an end in the year 1885. The toll gates were removed and the road became an ordinary highway reparable by the parishes through which it passed. The road fulfilled the purposes of a main road ; the traffic was large, and the gradient very steep, so the cost of maintenance would therefore be heavy. The South Wales Turnpike Act contained no provision for the adoption of new roads, the Court therefore considered that special legislation should be obtained, and that a Bill should be prepared "provided that no expense is thereby occasioned to the county." A measure dealing with the subject was passed by Parliament and an amending Act the following year ; so much of the road as lay within the county of Brecknock (except so much as was within the urban district of Brynmawr) was henceforth to be repaired by the County Roads Board.

## QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE.

The year 1877 completed the fiftieth year of the reign of H.M. Queen Victoria, and the Court presented a loyal address of congratulation. This event was celebrated in every town and village in the county with great rejoicings, the young being feasted with teas and the aged poor and others sat down together at dinner. Sports were held, and huge bonfires kindled on the hills of the county, notably on the summit of the Brecknock Beacons. To celebrate the event at Hay and Builth, in a more enduring form, the Public Bodies of those places purchased from Sir J. R. Bailey, Bart. (the Lord of the Manor), the market tolls. The conveyance of the tolls at Builth was completed early in the following year, and thus was extinguished a feudal tax which had existed since the times of the Normans. Services of thanksgiving were held in the various churches and chapels in the county, and that held in the Priory at Brecon took the form of a county event, and the military attended what was a most impressive gathering. The Mayor of Brecknock (Dr. James Williams, J.P.), in response to the invitation extended to the Mayors of Provincial towns, attended in his robes of office the great national service of thanksgiving in London.



The most important work of the year was the reconstruction of the roadway of the Brecknock portion of Glasbury bridge with iron; the greatest care was taken to test the strength of the work, and a loan of £1,000 was borrowed for the rebuilding of the bridge.

#### AGITATION FOR REFORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Up to the year 1887 the public business of the counties of England and Wales had been transacted by Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Crown on the recommendation of the Lords Lieutenants. The reform of county government, involving transference of financial responsibility from the Court of Quarter Sessions to an Elective Council had, however, been under the consideration of politicians for many years. During the Parliament of 1868-74 (the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone being Prime Minister) a Bill had been introduced dealing with the question, under which it was intended that the poor law union should be the constituency for the election by ratepayers of representatives who should be the financial county. The fact that poor law unions were in many cases not conterminous with the county, but overlapped, being formed oftentimes from parts of two, sometimes of more than two counties, seems to have been overlooked. As soon as the difficulties arising from this cause became apparent, the Bill was withdrawn. County Boards again formed part of the programme of Mr. Disraeli's Government of 1874, and of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet of 1880; both great parties in the State had pledged themselves to deal with the question. A ministry under the leadership of Lord Salisbury took office in 1866, and placed the reform of Local Government and of Local Taxation first amongst their measures of importance.

The first step taken was an attempt to simplify local areas of government. During the summer of 1877 an Act of Parliament (50-51 Vict., c. 61) was passed appointing Commissioners to enquire and report as to the boundaries of certain areas of local government in England and Wales; as to the best mode of so adjusting the boundaries of the county and of the other areas of local government as to arrange that no union, sanitary district, or parish, should be situate in more than one county; and as to any alteration of boundaries, combination of areas, or administrative arrangements consequential on any alteration which they might recommend in the boundaries of any county, union, sanitary district, or parish. As a measure of general application the first idea of the Commissioners was to adopt *Union Counties*. The union county had already been adopted for registration purposes; the term indicated a county to be formed (a) of all such poor law unions as lay entirely within the district, (b) unions which were placed in more than one county being transferred to that county within which the greater part of the inhabitants resided.

In the County of Brecknock, the Union of Brecknock was the only one in no way connected with adjoining counties. On the South, Ystradgunlais was in the Union of Pontardawe; Ystradfellte in that of Neath; Penderyn and Vaynor in Union of Merthyr Tydfil; and the whole of these Unions were, with the exception of the above named Brecknockshire parishes, in the County of Glamorgan. In the Union of Crickhowell the southern portions of the parishes of Llangattock and Llangynidr (as then constituted) had been placed in the local board districts of Rhymney, Tredegar, and Ebbw Vale, all in the county of Monmouth; while the Urban district of Brynmawr, chiefly carved out of the Brecknockshire parishes of Llangattock and Llanelly, had recently had added to it a small portion of the parish of Aberystroth in the County of Monmouth.

On the northern boundary of the County, similar complications arose. The town of Llanwrtyd, with the neighbouring parish of Llandulas, formed part of the Union of Llandovery in the County of Carmarthen. Llanwrthwl, the northern most parish of Brecknockshire, had been annexed to the Radnorshire Union of Rhayader. The Brecknockshire Union of Builth contained within its limits no less than ten Radnorshire parishes, for the most part consisting of the watersheds of brooks tributary to the river Wye. Lastly the Brecknockshire Union of Hay was composed of ten parishes and hamlets in the county of Brecknock, of nine in Radnor, and of four in Herefordshire.

In face of this confusion of boundaries, the first idea of the Commissioners was to place the broken district south of the Beacon range of mountains in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth. Brecknockshire and Radnorshire might, they thought, be joined into one administrative county: it would be in area about the size of Herefordshire, but with a smaller population. It is sufficient now to say that the proposition met with the strongest opposition. They then fell back upon the scheme of the Union County, compensating Radnorshire on the north and east for parishes watered by the Wye and its tributaries, which would pass into the County of Brecknock; the latter county ceding in turn on the south certain parishes to Glamorgan and Monmouth, and gaining those parishes of Hereford, Radnor, and Carmarthen, which formed part of the Unions of Hay, Builth, and Llandovery. This proposition found favour with the Committee of Justices; it would have formed an area very suitable for administration, but this scheme, also, excited the strongest opposition; Radnor-



shire deemed the plan equivalent to its own extinction, and her orators spoke of the impending contest as a struggle for existence. "Impudent audacity" was a term freely applied to it, and great excitement prevailed in that county.

Nor was much greater favour shown in Brecknock. On the north, many of the Justices resided in Radnor, and shared the view held by that county. On the south, Ystradfellte, Penderyn, and Ystradgunlais shrewdly totted up the cash, and arrived at the conclusion that union with the more important districts of Glamorgan would not be to their advantage; while Brynmawr and the neighbouring townships looked at the political side of the question, feared that the party, whose opinions were shared by the majority of the townsmen, might lose ground in Brecknock if that district which they deemed the Liberal stronghold were ceded to Monmouth.

#### THE COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

Petitions flowed from every quarter that the Justices would leave the boundaries of the county as they hitherto had been. The Chairman of Quarter Sessions, to whom the discredit of the proposed alterations was freely attributed, was lampooned in verses "too scurrilous to be accepted in their entirety by a respectable newspaper." Quarter Sessions, at an adjourned meeting, considered the question, the supporters of the measure found themselves in a minority, and the scheme, so far as the County of Brecknock was concerned, was as good as dead. That which occurred in Brecknock happened also elsewhere: a county sentiment, not anticipated, everywhere evinced itself, and the Government decided to proceed in the following Session of Parliament with a local Government Bill not dependent on the report of the Commission.

At the Epiphany Sessions, 1898, a motion was carried to the following effect: "That this Court protests against any alterations of the ancient boundaries of the county, which are convenient, well-defined, and acceptable to the inhabitants of the County." Mr. Penry Lloyd brought forward a scheme for dividing the county for local government purposes into six districts: No. 1, Brecon; No. 2 Hay; No. 3, Builth; No. 4, Crickhowell; No. 5, Vaynor; No. 6, Defynock. This was referred to the various local bodies to report thereon, and a special meeting was held on February 18th to consider their reports. An objection was raised on behalf of Brecknock, on which the voting was even, and Colonel Conway Lloyd, of Dinas, who occupied the chair, gave his casting vote in favour of the scheme, which was forwarded to the Boundary Commissioners. At the Easter Sessions an elaborate scheme was received from them, and at the same Sessions the Local Government Bill, not dependent on the boundary report, was received, and at a special meeting on the 12th of April the Justices approved the general principles of that Bill. They considered that the number of Councillors should not be less than thirty; that in arranging electoral divisions area as well as population should be considered; they disapproved the principle of selected Aldermen; they disapproved handing over the police to the control of a joint Committee of Justices and Councillors; they considered that the Council should have the management of main roads; that highways should be placed in the hands of District Councils, to whom also assessment for rating purposes should be entrusted, many of which matters formed the subject of subsequent legislation.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY COUNCILS.

The year 1888 will long be remembered for the commencement of a series of reforms in Local Government in Great Britain. Those reforms, not yet, at the close of the 19th century, complete, involved many changes in boundaries and management; the keynote, however, was the transference of local administration from the hands of the justices to elective Councils. The measures introduced in the Session of 1888, originally contained provisions for a County Council and for District Councils, a promise being given that similar legislation should be afterwards undertaken for Parish Councils. The subject proved so vast that all, save the County Councils, had to be deferred for future consideration. The County Council consisted as to three-fourths of elected Councillors, and as to one-fourth of County Aldermen elected by the Councillors. The number of Councillors was determined in each case by Parliament, that being selected which seemed likely to form a Council convenient for purposes of deliberation.

To the County of Brecknock were allotted forty-five Councillors, with the complimentary number of fifteen Aldermen, constituting in all a Council of 60 members. The task of dividing the county into electoral divisions was entrusted to the Justices in Quarter Sessions assembled, subject to the following instructions (Sec. 51), viz., "The divisions were to be arranged with a view to the population being as nearly as possible equal, regard being had to a proper representation, both of rural and urban population, to the distribution and pursuits of the population, and to area." Every electoral division was to be a county district, a combination of county districts, or to be comprised



within a county district, the term county district being used in anticipation of the formation of District Councils, provisions for which had originally formed part of the Government measure, and which has become the subject of subsequent enactments.

The Administrative County for the purpose of the first election was defined by the Act (Sec. 50) to be "the County as bounded for the purpose of the election of members to serve in Parliament, with the following exception, where any Urban Sanitary District is situate partly within and partly without the boundary of a county, the district is to be deemed to be within that county which contained the larger portion of the population of the district." Thus, in the County of Brecknock, so much of the southern portions of the parishes of Llangynidr and Llangattock as were situated in the urban districts of Rhymney, Tredegar, and Ebbw Vale, passed for administrative purposes into the County of Monmouth; and returned no member to the first Brecknock County Council; on the other hand, a small portion of the Monmouth parish of Aberystroth, with the urban district of Brynmawr, passed into the administrative County of Brecknock.

The Justices devoted the remainder of the year to the task of working out the detail of the new law. The Government had allotted to the Borough of Brecon five members on the County Council; the Justices therefore divided the remainder of the county into forty-one electoral divisions. To each portion of the county representing the future county district, was allotted the number of Councillors due to its population, and in considering the further division of the district into electoral units consideration of area and geographical position were allotted weight. The average population of each electoral division was 1,150. The town of Hay contained the largest population, viz., 1,950, but was small in area; the smallest population to which a Councillor was allotted was in the division of Llangynidr, a parish of large area, which from geographical considerations did not admit of convenient grouping. The last few months of the year were passed in active canvassing for the first election of the County Council; the contests were nearly everywhere fought on political issues, both political parties striving to obtain a majority on the new Council.

#### THE BRECON TOWN HALL.

In the year 1888, the Town Hall of Brecon, which had long required enlargement and renovation, was re-built at a cost of £3,000. The basement beneath the old assembly room and Council room, which had in days gone by served the purpose of a corn market, and sometimes of a butter and cheese market, and in which were placed the old "stocks" for the punishment of offenders, was converted into a Council Chamber and Borough Police Court, a Mayor's parlour, Town Clerk's offices, etc., thereby enabling the whole of the room above to be devoted to the purpose of an assembly room. When completed, the building internally presented a very handsome appearance; but externally, except for the removal of the old iron railing in the archways, and a couple of doorways, and the substitution of windows, the building remained as before. A "drum-face" clock was erected over the main entrance. The cost of these various alterations was wholly defrayed by the late Colonel John Morgan, D.L., J.P., V.D., of Bank House, Brecon, who had inherited great wealth from his uncle, a private banker, and who during his public life had performed many acts of kindness and benevolence to the town and county of Brecon.

Amongst smaller events of the year, it was moved, and two years subsequently, on Tuesday, April 8th, 1890, enrolled, that the parishes of Llanspyddid, Modrydd, and Glyn, formerly in the Petty Sessional Division of Defynock, should in future form part of the United Petty Sessional Division of Merthyr and Pencelly.

#### ELECTION OF FIRST COUNTY COUNCIL.

January, 1889, saw the first election of a County Council. As already stated, in Brecknock, as elsewhere, it involved a sharp political contest, and some heart-burning amongst those engaged; this was, however, but a thing of the moment, and has no subsequent interest. As the result, a Council was elected thoroughly representative of the county. Those of the Justices who had in former years taken an active part in public business, were for the most part returned as Councillors for the divisions in which they resided; some, whom the accident of local politics had excluded at the election, entered the Council as Aldermen, and a strong contingent of new men from the professional classes, agriculturists, and traders, brought into the service of the county a variety of useful knowledge. At their first meeting the Council elected as their chairman Charles Evan-Thomas, Esq., barrister-at-law, of the Knoll, Neath, who with wisdom and courtesy presided over their deliberations for a period of eleven years, retiring, to the great regret of his colleagues, in the spring of the year 1900. The vice-chair was filled by Richard Digby Cleasby, Esq., J.P., of Penoyre, Brecon, barrister-at-law.



Police, Justice, and management of the county buildings, were by special enactment placed in the hands of a Standing Joint Committee, chosen as to half its number from the Justices, and the other half from amongst the members of the County Council.

#### DISSOLUTION OF COUNTY ROADS BOARD.

The County Roads Board, under which the turnpike roads of Breconshire had been managed since the year 1844, was now abolished, its work being taken over by the County Council, and confided to a Committee. Toll gates were removed, and the turnpike roads, henceforth termed "main" roads, became a charge upon the county fund. Other Committees were appointed, to whom were entrusted finance, the formation of a county rate basis, the diseases of animals, the management of the Lunatic Asylum at Abergavenny, and the framing of standing orders for the regulation of the work of the Council.

The first difficulty encountered by the Council arose from the administration of main roads. In some districts, notably in Ystradgynlais, there had been no turnpike road. So long as the turnpike roads had been repaired by a charge on the traveller, levied at the toll gate, no grievance occurred; but now main roads were maintained at the cost of the county fund, in which easement those localities in which were no main roads did not participate. In Urban districts, also, the portion of the main road passing through the town was a street repaired by the Urban Authority. This, said the townsmen, was but a portion of the main road, and should be repaired in whole or in part by the County fund. In Brynmawr, it was argued, there was a special hardship in the case of the main road passing through the town; it had been a turnpike road, was never made as a street, but houses had been built up by degrees on either side of it, added to which their district included a mile of county where there was no pretence of calling the road a street.

#### ELECTION OF FIRST COUNTY ALDERMEN.—MAIN ROADS.

The Council met in April to elect Aldermen and Committees, and at their first meeting for business on May the 4th, the Councillors for Brynmawr moved "That the Breconshire County Council will maintain and repair the portion of the disturnpiked road that is within the Urban district of Brynmawr." In October the Councillor for Ystradgynlais took action, and proposed "That considering the exceptional position of Ystradgynlais, owing to there being no main road in the district, and the injustice arising therefrom, it is desirable that a grant in aid be made, or a portion of the road be mained, such grant being as far as practicable in proportion to the contribution of the district towards the main roads of the county." How far reaching such a policy would have been may be shown from a resolution proposed the following year by Councillor Owen Price, viz., "That in order to equalise the rates for main roads in this county it is desirable that the amount levied in each highway district should be expended within that district, and to carry that system into effect it is necessary that 76 miles of roads should be taken over by this Council in addition to the main roads maintained at present." To which it was replied, if the rates were to be equalised, then the poor rate also should be treated as a common charge on the county fund. At every meeting this vexed question came up in some form, and in 1891 Colonel Conway Lloyd, chairman of the Roads Committee, placed on the paper two alternatives: (1) To dismain all roads, throwing the repairs on the various districts; (2) for the Council to take over the management of all highways, making them a common charge on the county fund. Either proposition involved new legislation, and shared the fate of all previous suggestions, so were rejected by the Council. The warfare continued until 1893, when Alderman Doyle, of Penydarren, Crickhowell, who had succeeded to the presidency of the Roads Committee, produced a scheme by which the Council undertook to subsidize certain selected highways which were links in a main road, or were thoroughfares to a railway station; the subsidy was limited in urban districts to one-third the cost of repairs, and in rural districts to one-half. A list of subsidized roads was adopted at the same meeting, and on the fourth of August the cost of repair of each road was arrived at, and the amount of assistance settled; the cost to the county being about £350 annually. Thus was settled a question of much contention, and though some attempts were afterwards made to re-open the matter, the Council has been firm in declining to depart from the arrangement then made.

#### NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD AT BRECON.

In August, 1889, the National Eisteddfod was held at Brecon under the presidency of H.M. Queen Victoria and H.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales. It had been intimated that the Prince and Princess would attend the gathering in person, and preparations were made for entertaining their Royal Highnesses. Much to the disappointment of the inhabitants of the county, these royal personages found it impossible to visit Wales at that time. The National gathering was therefore opened by the Lord Lieutenant of the County (Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart.), in the temporary building (capable



of holding more than ten thousand people, and twice the size of the Free Trade Hall, Manchester) which had been erected in fields on Cerrigcochion Road (where now stands the Intermediate School for Girls and other buildings); and even this vast structure proved too small on the most crowded day of the meeting. Madame Patti (who for 25 years had been unrivalled as a vocalist, and who had taken up her residence in the county at Craig-y-nos) attracted enormous crowds of visitors, and charmed the multitude in and outside the Pavilion by her singing of the Welsh patriotic song, "Land of My Fathers," led by Mr. William Abraham, a popular Member of Parliament, generally known as "Mabon" (the boy). And as this genial leader of Welsh people, and the incomparable Patti, united in this inspiring melody, the immense assemblage, numbering perhaps some fifteen thousand people, rose as one man to shout the chorus, a touching effect perhaps never before witnessed in the history of music. The gathering, extending over nearly a week, was an enormous success, and evoked scenes of great enthusiasm in Brecon.

#### VISIT OF DUKE OF CLARENCE.

In July, 1890, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales informed the Lord Lieutenant of Brecknock that he desired that his eldest son, H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, should visit South Wales; that, mindful of the disappointment which had been experienced by the people the previous year, he wished the Duke to go first to Brecknock, and afterwards to one of the great commercial centres. The Duke of Clarence and Avondale accordingly arrived from York on the 15th of September. At Hereford, His Royal Highness was received by the Mayor and chief magistrates of the county and city. At Abergavenny, the Duke of Beaufort, Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire, was in attendance; and the Town Commissioners presented an address. The town was gay with decorations, and the streets thronged with people assembled to greet the Duke; and the road to Crickhowell was spanned by arches at frequent intervals. The carriages were escorted by the Monmouthshire Yeomanry to the frontier of Brecknockshire, where they were met by the Mounted Company of Brecknock Volunteers, under the command of Captain Penry Lloyd. The town of Crickhowell and its ruined Castle were illuminated.

The Duke during his stay in Wales was the guest of the Lord Lieutenant of Brecknock at Glanusk Park. On Tuesday, September the 16th, the Royal party visited Brecon, and were present at the Agricultural Show. Within a mile of Brecon, they were again met by the military escort. The county town had been most gaily decorated, and at the Bulwark, in front of the Duke of Wellington monument, a dais had been erected, and here Colonel John Morgan, for the third time Mayor of Brecon, in the presence of the Council, county people, and a great crowd of burgesses and others, presented the Prince with a golden casket containing an address of welcome, which His Royal Highness graciously accepted and acknowledged. The Show was held on the Dinas Green, meadows adjoining the River Usk near to Christ College, lent for the occasion by Colonel Conway Lloyd; the Volunteer Battalion of the South Wales Borderers, under his command, formed a guard of honour during the day, and subsequently dined together at the Market Hall at the cost of their officers. The Prince inspected the show of cattle, etc., and afterwards held a reception in a pavilion, at which all persons holding official rank, and local notabilities, were presented to him. His Royal Highness was afterwards entertained at luncheon in the Hall of Christ College by the High Sheriff and Mrs Cleasby, of Penoyre.

On the following day, September 17th, the Prince, attended by his suite and a party from Glanusk, proceeded by special train to Cardiff, where he opened in state a new approach to the Docks, and a bridge which was to bear the name of Clarence Bridge. Probably such crowds as assembled on this occasion had never before been seen in the Principality,

On the 18th, Thursday, His Royal Highness laid the foundation stone of the Public Hall at Crickhowell, and he planted "the Clarence Oak" at Glanusk Park, and in the evening started by special train on his return journey to Scotland. Not many months later, this amiable Prince was stricken with illness, and, to the great grief of his countrymen, died. The melancholy event evoked widespread tokens of sorrow and sympathy with the Royal house, and in no part of the Empire were these expressions more sincere than in the county of Brecknock.

Within the early summer of this year, the Rev. Daniel Lewis Lloyd, M.A., Headmaster of Christ College, Brecon, was created Bishop of Bangor. (*See History of Christ College.*) He was succeeded by the Rev. A. Bayfield, M.A.

The year was very favourable for agriculturists, who, since 1880, had suffered severely from depression of trade and bad seasons. Early in December a hard frost set in, and on the 17th there



fell heavy snow, which lay on the ground until the 20th of January, 1891. This winter was said to be the most severe that had been experienced since careful record had been kept.

#### THE ANGEL INN AT BRECON.

During the year 1890-91 the county by a "windfall" became the possessors of a piece of property called the Angel Inn, at Brecon (8 and 9 Vict., c. 18, Sec. 127). There is a legal obligation on the Railway Companies and other persons purchasing lands compulsorily, to sell all superfluous lands within ten years after the completion of their works, and in default any superfluous land unsold becomes the property of the owners of land adjacent thereto. The Neath and Brecon Railway had thus purchased the Angel Inn, Brecon, but had made no use of it for their undertaking. Ten years had elapsed since their works were completed, and it remained still unsold. The adjoining lands belonged partly to Mr J. R. Cobb, partly to the County of Brecknock; each adjoining owner asserted his claim, and an action issued. In the result the Company admitted that the Inn became the property of the claimants according to their respective frontages, less a strip 8 feet wide, which the Company retained to enable them to erect scaffolding for repairing the arches of their bridge. On these terms the matter was adjusted, and the Angel Inn passed into the possession of the County of Brecknock.

Local taxation came under the enquiry of the Council in 1891, a Committee reporting January 29th. This report dealt with every branch of taxation, the general result being that the heaviest taxation is borne by parishes connected with large populations. The heaviest was Brynmawr, where taxation reached 8s. in the £ of rateable value; all urban districts and parishes with School Boards were also heavily taxed, the smallest burden being laid on parishes entirely agricultural, those in the Hay Union being no higher than 1s. 8d. in the £.

#### INTERMEDIATE AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

In 1889 the Welsh Intermediate Education Act was passed, "to make provision for technical and intermediate education in Wales and Monmouth." The general intention was to carry on, largely at public expense, the education of children between the time when they left the Elementary School and that at which they went out into the world, or completed their studies at one of the Universities. In Brecknock a scheme was prepared by a Committee appointed partly by the Imperial Government and partly by the County Council, which scheme received the approval of Queen Victoria in Council 20th November, 1894. Funds were provided for intermediate education from a county rate of one halfpenny, a Treasury grant of like amount, and a further sum provided by the Customs and Excise Act, 1890. A County Governing Body of 23 Governors were appointed: twelve by the County Council, one by the University College of Wales, eight by the local school managers, and two by co-optation. Of this body Colonel F. W. A. Roche, of Tregunter, was the first chairman, an office which he held till his death in 1897. The county was divided into eight school districts, of which Builth, Brecon, and Brynmawr were to erect schools. Hay, Talgarth, and Defynock were affiliated to Brecon; Vaynor and Ystradgunlais to the neighbouring districts of Glamorgan. Public Scholarships and Bursaries were instituted under the control of each district of school managers; the scholarships are obtainable by competition, limited to children resident in the district, educated for three years at Public Elementary Schools. Sufficient money was collected to commence building schools at Builth in 1896, and these schools were opened in 1900; the dual school at Brynmawr was completed in 1899, and the boys and girls' schools at Brecon in 1901.

#### THE BIRMINGHAM WATERWORKS.

In the year 1891 the authorities of Birmingham decided to obtain water to supply their city, with its half million of inhabitants, from the Valleys of the Elan and Clairwen, which rivers form the northern boundary of Brecknockshire, dividing that county from Radnor. In the Act of Parliament applied for, clauses were introduced protecting the county rate (report, August 5th, 1892), roads, and bridges. The Corporation of Birmingham further undertook to send down the River Wye a daily supply of 27 million gallons to compensate the fishing interests, and to pay a sum of £7,500 to the Conservators for the improvement of the river. The Act received the Royal Assent 22nd June, 1892. The Corporation of Birmingham purchased the entire property of Mr Lewis Lloyd, J.P., of Nantgwyllt, the manorial rights of the Manor of Builth situate within the valley, and made similar arrangements in Radnorshire. Birmingham thus acquired an unlimited supply of pure water, having purchased in order to do so a large quantity of land, and to which must be added easements for 73 miles of aqueducts. On October 31, 1892, Mr James Mansergh was instructed to prepare plans; and a railway, constructed from Rhayader to the works, was completed by July, 1894. A village was built on the Brecknock side of the valley for the navvies, their families, and others engaged in this extensive undertaking; and the settlement must be regarded as in every sense a model



village. It provided accommodation for 1,000 persons, and was approached by a bridge erected by the Corporation on private ground; there was a complete system of sewage, public lighting, and water supply, and the public institutions comprised a school and mission room, a recreation hall, canteen, bath house, and hospitals, all under the control of the Birmingham Corporation. The dwelling huts were built of wood, weather boarded; at one end being accommodation for the keeper and his family, and in the centre a common living room, and beyond a passage having on either side cubicles, each lodger having a separate sleeping room. These works were completed in the year 1904, and His Majesty King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra attended the opening ceremony, when there were great rejoicings at Rhayader and the Elan Valley.<sup>1</sup>

#### MAIN ROADS.—DISTRICT COUNCILS, &c.

In the year 1893, a dispute arose as to the repairs of a main road, the "Rhyd y Brew" road, leading from Swansea and Neath to Merthyr Tydfil. A portion of it, about one and a half miles in length, lay within the county, but it had always been treated as a Glamorgan road, and Brecknock averred that the cost should continue to be borne by Glamorgan, although subsequent legislation had imposed on County Councils the burden of maintaining all main roads within their jurisdiction. The question was tried at law, with the result of a decision in favour of Glamorgan (April, 1897), and the repair of this portion of the road will therefore fall in future upon the County of Brecknock.

The year 1894 is memorable for the passing of a Local Government Act; an important development of the scheme of local government, initiated in 1888, by the creation of County Councils. District Councils, contemplated, but not carried out by the original Act, were now brought into existence, and the list of local authorities was completed by the formation of Parish Councils in rural parishes. The Rural District Council took the place of Rural Sanitary and Highway Authorities; the Council also acted as Guardians of the Poor. Justices of the Peace, who had up to this time been ex-officio Guardians, ceased to act in that capacity, and the Council was entirely elected by popular suffrage. In Brecknock the county delegated to a Committee the task of bringing the act into operation. Their proposals were ready by August 3rd. The general scheme was that every parish of less than 500 inhabitants should return one member to the District Council, while parishes of larger populations should be represented by two Councillors; parishes situate partly in an urban and partly in a rural district, and those which were partly within and partly without the administrative county, were divided, so that there should ultimately be no confusion of areas. Where the interests of more than one county were involved, the areas interested were represented on a joint Committee to whom the matter was referred. Parish Councils, taking, except for ecclesiastical purposes, the place of the ancient vestry meeting, came into being at the same time, the number of the Councillors being adjusted to the size of the parish, such parishes of less than one hundred inhabitants, as the County Council thought should have a Council, being allotted five members; the number of Councillors gradually increasing until parishes of over 2,000 inhabitants were given a Council of 15 members. Under the Act of 1894, Parish Councillors were elected annually, but by subsequent legislation in 1899, this term of office has been extended to three years (62 and 63 Vic., c. 10).

#### FIRE AT BUCKLAND, AND LONDON WATER SCHEME.

On the 23rd January, 1895, Buckland, the mansion of Mr. J. P. Gwynne Holford, was totally destroyed by fire, and this lamentable incident is more fully dealt with in the parochial section of this work. It has been re-built, the new house being completed in 1898.

The years 1895-98 formed the third elective period of the County Council: it was elected in March, 1895; Mr Charles Evan-Thomas being for the third time unanimously selected as chairman. In the latter part of 1895, Sir James Binnie published a scheme for supplying the Metropolis with water from the valleys of the Usk and the Wye, and the County Council appointed a Committee to guard the interests of Brecknock. They did not, however, seem to appreciate the tremendous effect that the abstraction of so vast a flood of water might have upon the future interest of the county. The London scheme was for the time withdrawn.

#### WASTE LAND NEAR PRISON.

Tarrall Bridge stands hard by the Brecon Prison, which had in 1878 been transferred to the Government. Between the Bridge and the Prison was a waste space, a few yards in breadth, which gave access to the river, and essential both for repairs of the bridge and for the public to obtain water for cattle and domestic use. The Prison Commissioners built a wall across this space, claiming

<sup>1</sup> A full description of the undertaking, and of the Opening Ceremonies, will be found in the *History of Radnorshire* (1905: Davies and Co., Publishers, Brecon. 30s.)



the ground as part of the precincts. Brecknock objected that the wall was not on ground belonging to the Commissioners, and that it caused inconvenience; all existing rights of way had been reserved by the conveyance which bore date March, 1882. Early in 1897 an arrangement was come to by which access to the river was secured for the county to maintain the bridge and for the public to water cattle, or to obtain water for other purposes. The obnoxious wall was removed, and it was arranged that a gate should be provided instead by the Prison Commissioners, but we do not remember ever having seen this erected. The piece of wall in dispute was on the Brecon end of the bridge, near to the boundary wall of the Prison.

#### THE CHANCEFIELD ASYLUM.

The Brecknock and Radnor part-ownership of the Abergavenny Asylum having come to an end, it was necessary for the two counties jointly or separately to provide house accommodation for their pauper lunatics, and on the 15th of March the Council determined that Brecknock should act with Radnor in providing a joint asylum; a committee was therefore appointed. The agreement with Radnor did not mature rapidly: that county feared that a site inconvenient for their patients might be selected. The Brecknock Council hoped that an agreement might be arrived at, but felt it imperatively necessary at once to provide accommodation for the pauper lunatics of Brecknock. They selected Cefn Brynich, near to Brecon, and the owner, Viscount Tredegar, though he did not wish to sell, intimated that he would not stand in the way of public improvement. When, however, this site was inspected by Mr. C. S. Bagot, Commissioner in Lunacy, it was considered that the farm was too near the Brecon sewage outfall, and that the supply of water was insufficient.

Pending the completion of the Asylum, an arrangement was made with the Monmouth County Council to receive Brecknock and Radnor patients at a weekly charge of two shillings and threepence a head, the number of patients to be limited to that at that time in the Asylum, and the contract to remain in force until 31st December, 1898. Radnor still held aloof, and considered that the Cefn Brynich site was too distant from their boundary, and further feared that in the selection of a site their interests would be neglected. Brecknock, therefore, communicated with Herefordshire with a view to having a joint asylum at Burghill. To this scheme the Lunacy Commissioners offered a strenuous opposition, and it was abandoned. A fresh site with farm house, buildings, and 164 acres of land was now discovered, Lower Porthamal, near Three Cocks Railway Station; it had every requirement as a site for a lunatic asylum, but legal difficulties occurred, and this site was also abandoned.

In the meantime an agreement had been come to between the counties of Brecknock and Radnor which ultimately took effect in the following form:—"It is agreed this .... day ....., 1896, between the Visiting Committees for the administrative counties of Brecknock and Radnor, that the said counties shall henceforth be united for the purposes of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and subsequent Acts, and that an Asylum for the reception of not less than 350 lunatics ..... shall be immediately provided to be erected on a site ..... in the County of Brecon, and that the necessary expenses for building and maintenance shall be defrayed by the said counties in proportion to their respective populations as stated in the last preceding census; for the time being Committees shall be appointed in the following proportions, Breconshire three-fifths, Radnorshire two-fifths. It is further agreed that in the event of a dissolution of partnership at any future time the interest of each county . . . . shall be valued as follows: a valuation shall be made of all . . . . property belonging to the partnership at the date of dissolution subject to liabilities . . . . and the property of the Joint Asylum so valued shall be divided between the counties in proportion to the amounts which they shall have respectively contributed thereto . . . ., etc." The last recited clause was inserted to protect Radnor against a repetition of the financial trouble which had overtaken the county under the arbitration with the County of Monmouth at the close of the agreement as to Abergavenny Asylum.

The task of valuing stock at Abergavenny Asylum had been left to Dr. Glendinning, the medical superintendent at Abergavenny, and on January 19, 1907, he reported the value at the date of dissolution of partnership to have been:—Stock in stores and farming stock, implements, and crops, £6,286 11s. 10d.; stock in artisans' shops, £715 5s. 1d.; balance at bankers, £7,059 8s. 6d.; expenditure on capital from 31st March, 1894, to 31st December, 1896, £1,772 16s. 9d. Total, £15,834 2s. 2d. The share of Brecknock in this property amounted to £2,729 19s. 0d.

Several possible sites were now suggested for the new asylum, three of which were selected by a sub-committee. Messrs Giles, Gough, and Trollope had been chosen as architects, and the three sites were reported on by Mr. Gough. That ultimately selected was the Chancefield site, comprising about 160 acres, and lying about three-quarters of a mile from the town of Talgarth. There was a good plateau for building, well sheltered from the north and east, and an ample supply of good water in



such a position as enabled it to be brought by gravitation to any part of the building. There was excellent stone, and good bricks could be made from clay on the site, and the land lay well for drainage irrigation. The Committee entered into a conditional contract for the purchase of the Chancefield property for £7,250, and after inspection by the Lunacy Commissioners it was finally bought. Arrangements were made with the tenant for immediate possession.

It will be remembered that the Brecon and Radnor patients had been received at Abergavenny Asylum, the contract ending at the close of the year 1898. That time had now arrived, and the new asylum had not even been begun; the Monmouth Council entered into a fresh contract (30th August, 1899) to maintain for five years from January 1st, 1899, Brecknock patients at a cost of 5s. 6d. a head per week in excess of the actual cost of maintenance, the agreement terminable on six months' notice; and the Secretary of State approved the contract September, 1898.

Plans of the proposed Asylum were prepared by Mr Gough, the selected architect, and an estimate of cost arrived at as follows:—Asylum, £107,200; reservoir, £2,808; site, £8,000; road from Talgarth, £1,700; furnishing, £6,000; electric lighting, £3,000; boundaries and roads, £2,000; sewage works, £250; clerk of the works, £600; architect's fees, £5,000. Total, £135,558. Altogether, it seemed probable that the total cost would amount to £140,000, of which the contribution of Brecknock would be £98,314 2s. 3d. At the meeting of the County Council, October 1898, it had been resolved to apply to this purpose the sum awarded by Mr. Birrell and Dr. Glendinning, representing the share of Brecknock in the Abergavenny Asylum, together amounting to £29,086; to this was added £475 1s 6d, the proceeds of the sale of the Angel Inn, Brecon, the property of the county as already stated. This left a sum of £68,807 to be provided, and this amount was in excess of the borrowing powers of the county. A provisional order was obtained, and sanction by Parliament (No. 71, 1898), and the money was finally borrowed from the Public Works Loans Commissioners, the required sum repayable in 28 years at 3 per cent. Tenders were applied for, and the work was undertaken by Messrs. Watkin Williams, of Pontypridd, contractors.

The first work undertaken was the new approach to the Asylum from Talgarth, the tender of Messrs. Batchelor and Snowdon, Cardiff, being accepted, the amount being £1,591 15s 7d, of which Brecknock was to pay £1,117 16s 4d. On October 11th, 1900, the Committee of Visitors reported the completion of the water supply, and that good progress had been generally made.

The building of the Asylum was continued in the years 1901-4. The water rights of Lord Ashburnham, as owner of Talgarth Mill, were in the autumn of 1901 purchased by the two counties for a sum of £500. The town of Talgarth, being desirous of improving its water supply, agreed to take the surplus water from the Asylum reservoir; the District authorities applied also for leave to erect the town reservoir and filter beds on the Asylum property, and a lease of half an acre was granted for a term of 99 years at a yearly rent of £2. Wernfawr, a farm adjoining the Chancefield Estate, was, in September, 1902, purchased by the two counties for £3,200, with timber valued at £354, in all £3,554.

In February, 1903, the Asylum was formally opened, and in the course of the following month the patients who had been kept at Abergavenny were moved into their new home. Dr. Ernest Jones had, in the autumn of 1902, been appointed medical superintendent.

In order to complete the narrative of this important work, we have anticipated the entries in county records for the years 1899-1904; but we must return to the documents for information relating to minor matters which may or may not be considered of sufficient importance to form part of the permanent history of the county.

#### LOCAL BOUNDARIES.

The local boundaries, as we have already seen, were much under discussion, and they must again be referred to. The representative county of Brecon differs from the geographical county in that the whole of each urban district was placed in the county in which the majority of inhabitants resided. Thus a portion of Aberystroth parish, of small population but large rateable value, now part of Brynmawr urban district, had been placed in Brecknock, while Beaufort, Rassa, Duke's Town, and Llechrhyd, being within the urban districts of Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, and Rhymney, had been placed in the county of Monmouth. This the Monmouth County Council, in the pecuniary interest of Monmouth, now sought to reverse; the interests of the county were entrusted to a local committee, and an inquiry was held at Ebbw Vale. In the result the present boundaries of the administrative county were left unchanged.

On August 7th, 1896, the parish of Llanelly made application for division into wards for the election of a Parish Council; the parish was divided into an eastern or Gilwern ward, to be represented on the Council by seven members, and a western ward named Llanelly to be eight Councillors.



About the same time the parish of Llanelly was transferred from Crickhowell to Brynmawr Petty Sessional District, the salary of the Justices' Clerk being raised to £160. It was desired also to make a division of non-ecclesiastical charities between the part of Llanelly now added to Brynmawr and the rural parish; the two parishes failed to agree upon a principle of division, and the matter has never been carried out.

In the settlement of local areas in 1894, the Poor Law Unions had been left unaltered, and in many cases transgressed the boundaries of counties. Llanwrtyd and Llandulas, two parishes in the hundred of Builth, were administered as part of the Carmarthen Union of Llandovery; they were now desired to be transferred for all purposes to the Union of Builth. A local inquiry was held, and on February 19th, 1897, it was announced by the Local Government Board that Llanwrtyd and Llandulas should be annexed to Builth for all purposes, the order to take effect from March 26th, 1897. An almost laughable incident of local government was the claim of Llandulas to be administered by a Parish Council, the whole number of electors in the parish being 14; but the Council declined to accede to the ambition of so small a locality. Glyntawe met with better success, the County Council resolving on the 19th April, 1895, that a Parish Council with five members should be established.

#### DISPUTES WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES.

In the extreme south of the county, the Glamorganshire main road passed for a mile and a half through the county of Brecknock, from Hirwaun bridge to Cwmynis Minton; the road had, up to the passing of the Local Government Act of 1888, been repaired by the Glamorgan authority. The Act imposed on the county of Breconshire the duty of repairing all main roads within its limits; each county repudiated the obligation, and the piece of road in dispute had accordingly fallen into bad repair. In 1896 a lawsuit took place between the two counties, and on April 14th, 1897, the judgment of the High Court was given in favour of Glamorgan. Brecknock did not appeal and will henceforth repair the road.

The Borough of Brecon made sundry claims under the Local Government Acts as against the county, and the matter was submitted to arbitration; the award published in January, 1897, was to the effect that "there were no matters requiring adjustment, and that the costs of the arbitration were to fall on the Borough."

The parish of Ystradfellte, a Brecknock parish within the Glamorgan union of Neath, desired to be added to the union of Brecknock. The County Council concurred, and on April 19th, 1898, addressed the Local Government Board on the subject, but the Board, replying on July 13th, declined to entertain the proposal.

Under the Local Government Act, 1894, a parish situated partly within and partly without an urban district, became automatically divided into two parishes. The urban district of Brynmawr was composed of three such parishes, parts of Llangattock and Llanelly in the county of Brecknock and a small portion of Aberystroth in the county of Brecknock. When they became divided parishes, the portions within the urban district were styled respectively Llangattock Brynmawr Urban, Llanelly Brynmawr Urban, and Aberystroth Brynmawr Urban. On October 21st, 1898, the Brynmawr District Council applied to the County Council that these three parishes should be united into one parish, to be called Brynmawr, and that the new parish should be placed in the Poor Law Union of Crickhowell. A local inquiry was held at Brynmawr on January 25th, 1899, and reported in favour of the change. The Local Government Board being applied to, raised no opposition, and on the 20th September, 1900, the Order was confirmed subject to modifications, and the three parishes were united into one parish called Brynmawr, as from the 30th September, 1900. The new parish was included in the Crickhowell Union, and a School Board was to be elected for the new parish; and school buildings the property of various School Boards within the parish of Brynmawr were to vest in the Board of the new parish subject to various adjustments.

#### INQUIRY AT YSTRADGUNLAIS,—SHEEP SCAB, ETC.

On the 19th January, 1900, the populous parish of Ystradgunlais petitioned that it should be divided into wards for the purpose of election of District and Parish Councillors, and for adopting the adoptive Acts. A local inquiry was held on March 26th; local opinions differed as to whether the parish should be divided into three or four wards, and the committee advised the County Council to take no action until the different authorities were in agreement. On August 3rd a second application was made by the Rural District and Parish Councils, and a second inquiry, under the presidency of Lord Glanusk, was held at Ystradgunlais on August 24th. Acting upon the report, the County Council, on January 18th, 1901, issued an order dividing the parish of Ystradgunlais Lower into four wards, to be respectively called Ystradgunlais Eastern and Western, and Palleg Eastern and Western.



Amongst mountain sheep, scab is generally present, and certain neighbouring counties passed orders prohibiting the introduction of sheep from Brecknock, to the detriment of the trade of that county. In consequence of the prevalence of the disease, a man was on 18th March, 1898, appointed to assist the inspector. The Council protested against the Government Order prohibiting the removal of sheep, as it might be hoped the disease was dying out; in April, 1899, six cases, involving only 38 sheep, were reported; in May and June there were no cases reported. On August 4th the Committee was empowered to appoint inspectors to see sheep dipped and to give certificates under the Sheep Scab Order, 1898, provided that no expense be caused to the county. About twenty parishes in the north of the county availed themselves of this Order, appointing two or three inspectors apiece. The county in October was reported free from the disease; on September 1st the Glamorgan County Council had addressed Brecknock, desiring to make restrictions and regulations for the southern part of Wales similar to those made by Shropshire, Radnorshire, Herefordshire, Montgomeryshire, and other counties, to endeavour to get rid of sheep scab. The matter was referred to the Committee of the Contagious Diseases Act, who on December 9th, 1899, met a Glamorgan Committee at Cardiff. The Brecknock representatives reported that much impediment to trade had been caused by the regulations in force in Radnor and the adjoining counties, and the Committees recommended that a joint inspector be appointed by Glamorgan and Brecknock to inspect sheep, and to attend markets to detect cases of scab. In November and December ten cases were reported, with 63 infected sheep.

#### ROAD AND BRIDGES.

The main road to Abergavenny, near Llangrwyne, is on a cliff, at the base of which the river Usk makes a sharp angle, and a serious landslip, which occurred in 1898, endangered the road. Landslips had occurred at this place for some years past, and the causes were, first the flowing of land water on the top of a stratum of marl and boulders about 24 feet above the bed of the river, softening the face of the marl and causing it to slip; secondly, the removal of the disintegrated marl by river floods. Neither of these causes would of itself do much harm; if there was no river the marl would find its natural angle and stand at that. On the other hand, if the marl and gravel were in their natural state they would be too hard to be affected by floods. In order to maintain the marl at its proper angle of repose, Mr. Tog. Rees recommended a concrete wall of Portland cement, having a foundation about two feet below the bed of the river, 380 feet in length, with a height varying from 12 to 18 feet, which he estimated would cost £841. The County Council, on 16th September, decided that the work should be at once proceeded with. No contractor was willing to undertake the work at the price, but on Mr. Rees being again consulted, Mr. Albert E. Parfit contracted to build the wall for £853, provided he were allowed to use a different cement and have the advantage of local material. On August 3rd, 1900, the work was reported to approach completion.

#### VAYNOR BRIDGE.

On the 10th March, 1899, the Vaynor Parish Council called the attention of the County Council to the dangerous state of Cefn Bridge, and asked for the erection of a new bridge. This bridge is the joint responsibility of Brecknock and Glamorgan; a committee was therefore appointed (including Mr. J. A. Doyle, chairman Roads and Bridges Committee) to meet the Glamorgan County Council, and on January 17th the Committees met at Merthyr. They decided on a stone bridge 30 feet wide, the price of iron being high. The Chairman and Mr. Doyle were authorised to inquire what contribution the Merthyr Electrical Tramway Co. were prepared to offer, owing to the enlargement of the bridge being necessary to carry their line. On August 8th, 1900, plans were laid before the Committee, who resolved that the Tramway Co. be required to contribute the additional cost necessitated by their works; and that the residue of the cost be divided between the counties in equal shares, all local contributions being credited to Brecknock. Thus the matter stood at the close of the year 1900, and the old and highly dangerous structure was allowed to remain unaltered, to the great annoyance of the residents of this populous district.

#### PERSONAL CHANGES.

In January, 1899, Sir J. R. Bailey, Bart., Lord Lieutenant and Chairman of Quarter Sessions, was raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Glanusk, and on January 20th the County Council congratulated him on the honour, and assured him of their most cordial wishes that he may live to enjoy his new dignity for very many happy new years; and it should here be added that the bestowal of this honour upon the Lord Lieutenant was acclaimed throughout the county by all sections of the people, and this feeling later found expression in the presentation to his lordship at Glanusk of several handsome illuminated addresses of goodwill and congratulation to himself and Lady Glanusk.

On January 19th, 1900, a letter was read from the Chairman of the Council. An attack of influenza followed by gout rendered his attendance impossible, and infirmities consequent on advanced



age forced him to tender his resignation. The Council expressed their great regret; they were profoundly conscious of the tact and ability with which Mr. Charles Evan-Thomas had presided over their deliberations during eleven years, for which they tendered to him the grateful thanks of the county of Brecon. In his place Lord Glanusk was elected chairman. On the 16th March, 1900, Mr. Cleasby retired from the vice-chair, and Alderman J. A. Doyle was elected in his place. About the same time Mr. Cleasby was elected chairman of Quarter Sessions, from which post Lord Glanusk retired on being elected chairman of the County Council.

In the early autumn of 1902 Mr. Charles Evan-Thomas (late chairman) and his son Commander Evan-Thomas, of Builth, both died. On Mr. C. Evan-Thomas's retirement from public work, his son, Commander Algernon Evan-Thomas, had been elected Councillor for Llangammarch in his father's place; this gentleman had been a commander in the Royal Navy, and was heir to the Llwynmadoc estates, for which he had acted as agent. The knowledge thus acquired had been of great public service during the building of Chancefield Asylum. Commander Thomas was chairman of the County Governing Body for Intermediate Education, and he had managed for his cousin at Llwynmadoc the elementary schools in the Builth district on lines acceptable to both Church and Nonconformity. To him the county looked to introduce the Elementary Education Act of 1902, and he was confidently expected to take in the future a leading part in county administration. When, therefore, in the spring of 1903, Commander Thomas met with a fatal accident, his death was felt to be a public catastrophe, and called forth deep expressions of regret.

On the 23rd of January, 1901, Queen Victoria died; and the following year as the time approached for the coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII., the country was filled with consternation at his alarming illness, which necessitated an immediate operation of a serious nature. On His Majesty's happy recovery the County Council forwarded a loyal address of thankfulness on August 2nd, 1902. The Coronation of His Majesty and Queen Alexandra on August 9, 1902, was celebrated in every town and village in the county with great rejoicings, feasting, and bonfires; and old and young were impressed with the importance of the event.

The year 1901 marked the death of Mr. William Williams, of Talbot House, Brecon, the County Surveyor, who had served the county for a long period of years, having succeeded his father in the office. During his term of office great changes had been effected in the county bridges and public buildings. Mr. Charles W. Best, C.E., was on the 5th July, 1901, selected to fill the vacancy; and both the county buildings and main roads were placed under his control at that time. Subsequently, however, a re-arrangement of the office took place, and a surveyor was appointed to take charge of the main roads. A new system of management at once took place, and a steam roller was purchased for use on the roads, and the stones were rolled in by this means instead of being allowed to remain on the roads until such time as they were crushed and rolled in by the ordinary vehicular traffic.

#### THE BWLCH HILL DISPUTE, CEFN BRIDGE, &c.

The Bwlch pass lies on the Abergavenny road eight miles from Brecon; the road passing through the village of Bwlch had been lowered, leaving a row of cottages standing dangerously near the edge of the cliff, which was supported by a retaining wall which had now given way. The liability to restore this wall was in dispute between the owners of the cottages and the county; counsel advised that the county was only liable for the protection of the wall, and the County Surveyor was ordered to execute such works only as were necessary for this purpose.

The question so often raised as to the liability to repair a bridge across streams dividing two counties again cropped up. Cefn Bridge, already referred to, half in Breconshire and half in Glamorganshire, required repair, and made sufficiently wide and strong to carry a light railway. Glamorgan offered to pay half, leaving for the advantage of Brecon any local subscriptions. The cost of the bridge was to be £4,330, of which the railway company offered £400; the remaining £3,930 apportioned thus: £1,965 by Glamorgan, £1,310 by Brecknock, and £655 by the Urban District Council of Merthyr Tydfil and the Rural District Council of Vaynor and Penderyn.

The Doldowlod bridge, Llanwrthwl, crossing the Wye between Brecknock and Radnor, requiring extensive repairs, it was agreed that the cost should be divided between the two counties.

#### THE RIVER USK.

Of late years the salmon fishing in the Usk had deteriorated, and the cause was uncertain. The great seaport of Newport had largely increased; its drainage, including the refuse of manufactories, was poured into the river, and its tributary the Afon Llwyd (brown stream) carried to the main river a vast quantity of rust and iron. The Clydach, also, charged with the sewage of Brynmawr, added its quota of contamination. Brecon had made little effort to keep its river pure, and added to these, the Great Western Railway, as owners of the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal, drew large quantities of



water from the river immediately above Brecon, not only for the purposes of their navigation, but also to supply their own railway and the various works of Monmouthshire. To this abstraction of water objection had often been taken, and in April, 1902, a committee of the various authorities was formed to approach the Great Western Company on this subject. The company at once undertook an exhaustive inquiry with the object of regulating the amount of water and reducing waste; as a result they were able to keep the sluices at the intake closed for 12 out of 24 hours. At Newton Weir a re-modelled fish pass facilitated the passage of fish to the upper reaches of the river, and the year being wet a large number of salmon were taken, and hopes entertained that the improvement would prove permanent.

In the early part of 1903 a proposal was made by the people of Merthyr Tydfil who were seeking a Charter of Incorporation, to include in their borough boundaries the Brecknock village of Cefn coed cymmer. The County Council at their meeting decided that the incorporation of Cefn was undesirable, and directed their clerk, Mr. H. Edgar Thomas, to oppose it. An inquiry, lasting several days, was held at Merthyr Tydfil at the close of April, and in the result the Government declined to sanction the inclusion of Cefn with Merthyr.

#### A NEW EDUCATION ACT—"PASSIVE RESISTERS."

All other events in these years were, however, overshadowed by the re-organisation of elementary education. In the year 1870 education was carried on by voluntary effort, and many places existed without schools of any kind. These were placed under School Boards, who built schools at the expense of the ratepayers. One great difference existed between the two classes of schools: in Board schools instruction in religion was undenominational; in Voluntary schools it followed the wishes of the founders, and was in most cases according to the form of the Established Church, but a conscience clause enabled a parent to withdraw his child from such religious instruction as he did not approve. Six years later the duty of parents to educate their children was recognised, and education made compulsory; hitherto parents had generally paid twopence a week for the education of each of their children. This now became unpopular, and the Government granted 10s for each child in place of the school pence. Hardship had also arisen in places with small population, and a grant was made to obviate this difficulty; then it became evident that other schools were equally necessitous, and a further grant was made. The cost of education had by this time largely devolved on the central Government, a smaller portion falling on the local rate or voluntary effort. In the year 1902, therefore, an Act was passed under which the County Council, acting through a committee, became the Local Education Authority, and all secular education, whether Board schools or Voluntary, elementary or advanced, being confided to its care. School Boards were of necessity abolished, and the boundaries of school districts altered where necessary to coincide with the boundaries of counties. The Act, however, contained elements of bitter contention. While the Board schools, now called Council schools, were placed entirely under public control, the Voluntary, now called non-provided schools, were managed by a body of six, four foundation managers, and two only elected by the ratepayers. Religious teaching in these schools followed the opinions of the pious founders, and the head teacher in Church schools was always to be a Churchman. The school buildings were those which had been erected by voluntary subscriptions and had still to be repaired at the cost of the trust. A grievous cry immediately arose. Education maintained by public money should certainly be entirely under public control; anything approaching exclusive religious teaching was an injury to the conscience of Nonconformists, and the Nonconformist teachers being excluded from the best paid place in Church schools hampered them unjustly in the race of life. So argued those who did not approve the Act. An organised opposition was made against the administration of the Act, and when part of a school rate was devoted to such religious teaching and education, many respectable persons in Brecknock, as elsewhere, refused to pay the rate until such time as their goods had been distrained upon by the police acting under the orders of the magistrates upon the application of the poor rate collectors. Friends, however, in Brecknockshire attended the auctions, which usually caused a large crowd to assemble, and generally bought in the goods thus offered for sale. For a time considerable feeling was aroused, but the movement eventually died a natural death. In the Builth Union the Guardians declined to levy the county rate, but the law authorising the County Council to collect the money, with ten per cent. additional, was put in force, and the offence in the Builth Union was not repeated.

We have now traced the history of events as collated from the Records of Court of Quarter Sessions and the County Council. To these we have added here and there, in order to complete the narrative, facts from other sources and from our recollection of the events. It is quite possible these records may be deficient in many respects, and also necessarily brief, but some of these will be found amplified in that part of this work which deals with the parochial history; and certain matters relating to the Great Forest of Brecknock will be found in a previous chapter.





CHARLES EVAN-THOMAS, ESQ.  
(Died 1902).

*First Chairman (for eleven years) of the Breconshire  
County Council.*



HUGH BOLD, ESQ.  
(Died 1867).

*Chairman of the Breconshire Quarter Sessions 1839.*









COLONEL F. W. ALEXANDER ROCHE OF TREGUNTER.

*(High Sheriff 1881.)*







## CHAPTER XI.

### RELIGION.

The Druids,—their Tenets,—our Knowledge of them from whence derived,—Origin of their Name,—the supposed Massacre of the Bards in the time of Edward the First,—the Introduction of Christianity into this Island,—the primitive Fathers and Bishops of the British Church,—Dispute between them and the See of Rome, about the Celebration of Easter,—Giraldus Cambrensis,—Patronage of the Churches of Brecknockshire on the Reformation,—State of the Establishment during the Time of Charles the First to 1800,—Early Church History of Brecknockshire.

THE religion of the earliest inhabitants of Brecknockshire and its neighbourhood, as well as of Britain, appears from history, tradition, and the remains now seen in this country, undoubtedly to have been Druidism: such at least continued to be the opinion of all writers, as well as readers of this subject, until the latter end of the last century, when Mr. Pinkerton in his inquiry into the history of Scotland ventured to assert that Druidism was a *late invention* in the South of Britain, though he in the very next line tells us, that it was palpably *Phœnician*, and that it was taught the inhabitants of Cornwall by the Phœnicians, where they traded for tin: how are we to reconcile these inconsistencies, or to suppose that sufficient opportunities occurred for the instruction of the natives in the tenets of Druidism, unless we believe that a colony of Phœnicians existed in Britain, who invented and propagated them, for which however there is no historical evidence, and which Mr. Pinkerton denies in terms of the most unqualified reprobation. As to the introduction or importation of this religion by the merchants of Phœnicia, it is hardly necessary to observe that it was an article in which persons of their description rarely traded and even if this position could be admitted, what then becomes of the assertion, that it was a late invention in the South of Britain?

#### THE DRUIDS.

“Tacitus and other Roman authors concur in stigmatising Druidism with the epithets of barbarous and odious, at the same time that it is evident they had a very inadequate knowledge of its principles or practice: full of their own importance and satisfied of their superiority over the rest of the world in science, in arts and in arms, they entertained a sovereign contempt for all who had the misfortune (as they arrogantly termed it) to be born out of the Roman territory; though it is by no means improbable that those barbarians, those odious Druidical priests, whom they reprobated, were more enlightened upon the most important of all subjects, than the conquerors of mankind and the rulers of nations, whose chief excellence consisted in a greater dexterity in cutting throats, for the purpose of obtaining plunder to debilitate and enervate themselves. At the time when the Romans first invaded this country the Druids had certainly made a very considerable progress in metaphysical learning, though it must remain doubtful, notwithstanding what has been said about their making use of the Greek letters, whether they had much if any knowledge of that mode of perpetuating opinions or facts, which has since become almost universal. At the commencement of the nineteenth century we too may probably pity these unread savages, and bless our stars when we resort to the valuable fund of knowledge thus communicated to us by the improvements of ages, which preserves the matured wisdom of the philosopher, and transmits to us the instructing and amusing records of historians; yet after all, without depreciating the advantages or undervaluing the benefits derived from the use of alphabetical characters and the art of printing, it cannot be denied that the plain undeviating rules of right and wrong are communicated in very few words, and that the eternal and immutable maxims of truth and justice require neither the aid of parchment or paper, or even the more durable monuments of brass or stone, to be perpetuated; they are written in an universal language, and in characters equally indelible, though invisible, in the breast of the ignorant and the learned, ‘the saint, the savage and the sage.’ Possessed of this natural and unerring system of learning, the Druids first and principally inculcated the love of virtue and the detestation of vice, acknowledged and believed in the being ‘of a supreme God, master of the universe, to whom all



things were submissive and obedient: they called him the author of everything that existeth, the eternal, the ancient, the living and awful Being, the searcher into concealed things, the Being that never changeth; they attributed to this Deity, an infinite power, a boundless knowledge, an incorruptible justice; they were forbidden from representing him in a corporeal form, they were not even to think of confining him within the enclosure of walls, but were taught that it was only within woods and consecrated groves they could serve him properly, as he seemed to reign there in silence, and to make himself felt by the respect he inspired.' Such is the description of this religion given by a very learned writer (whose opinions on the subject we implicitly adopt), when he records the early tenets of the Scandinavians; in support of which he quotes Tacitus, who attributes these principles to the Germans; whilst the inhabitants of Spain and Gaul, and afterwards Britain, half subdued by the arms and luxury of the Romans, adopted by degrees new gods, at the same time that they became subject to new masters.

#### EARLY AUTHORITIES ON DRUIDISM.

"The author from whom we principally derive our information as to the doctrine and manners of the Druids, and upon whom succeeding writers chiefly rely, is Julius Cæsar; though how far he had leisure to contemplate, or inclination to attend to these subjects we know not. The language he uses when he mentions them, which most of his translators have erroneously communicated, does not appear to be the result of much reflection or consideration; indeed when we attend to what has been said by him as well as *how* it has been said, it will be very doubtful whether any part of it will apply to the Druids of Great Britain. Let us hear his words and see how they are introduced: "in omni *Gallia* eorum hominum, qui aliquo sunt numero atq. honore, genera sunt duo," whom he describes to be the Druids, and their captains and leaders in war; he then proceeds to relate the duties and privileges of the former, as legislators, priests and philosophers, and concludes thus, "Doctrina in Britannia reperta, atq. inde in Galliam translata esse existimatur." This is the foundation of *all* the knowledge we derive of the British Druids, and this is the only author who had an opportunity (if indeed he had such, for he did not continue two months in the island) of learning personally from them what their opinions were, and yet everything which has been cited above relates to Gaul alone, and is given in a chapter describing the manners of that country only. But the doctrine of the bards of Gaul was introduced there, says he, from Britain *as it is thought*, or according to common report. Rowland and several others, when they quote this passage, tell us, that *Cæsar affirms* that the discipline and practice of the Druids came from Britain into Gaul, whereas it is clear that *Cæsar affirms* no such thing: he gives it only as the general opinion (whether of his countrymen or the Britons we know not), as a mere report, the truth of which he did not think it worth his while to inquire or to trouble his head about. Later writers with much greater probability suppose the reverse of this conjecture to be true, and that Druidism, pure uncorrupted Druidism, as it has been just described, was introduced from Gaul into Britain, and that at a very early period indeed, perhaps not many centuries after the deluge. The same system as the Druids professed was, no doubt, the earliest religion of all countries, of those of Persia, under the name of Ghaurs, Gauri, or as we would call them, Cewri, and of the old Brahmins of the East. The latter, though they preserve their primitive manners and simplicity, have introduced such wild and fanciful theories, such whimsical and inexplicable tales and allegories, that the truth has been nearly suffocated under a load of uncouth monsters, of imaginary creation and shapes, and the pure tenets of the primæval fathers concealed by the veil of almost impenetrable darkness and superstition. The Persians, though they never indulged themselves with these manifold representations or rather misrepresentations of the Deity, have yet with as little reason as the Druids of Britain been charged with the worship of a multiplicity of gods; as fire, water, the sun and moon, though the religion of both countries has been very properly described by one of the editors of the ancient universal history in the following words: "the Persians were the adorers of one all-wise and omnipotent God, and they could not bear he should be represented by either molten or graven images, or *that the Creator and Lord of the universe should be circumscribed within the narrow bounds of temples.*"

#### SUPPOSED HUMAN SACRIFICES.

"Fire, it is true, was always seen blazing on their altars (after they had in some degree degenerated from their early tenets by the erection of temples), yet this fire was only symbolical, they worshipped God in the fire, and not the fire as a god, and great care was taken by the priest to explain that it was only esteemed holy as an emanation from the fountain of light; they were also taught that "whenever they should pray by day, to turn their face towards the sun, and whenever they prayed by night, they should incline towards the moon, for they were the two great lights of Heaven, and *God's two witnesses*, most contrary to Lucifer, who loved darkness better than light. Yet are these very men charged by Herodotus and Strabo (being themselves Polytheists),



with the worship of a variety of gods, and in a note in the publication just mentioned, a remarkable story is related as told by the former author, with as much boldness, says the editor, as if he had been an eye witness of it. 'At their arrival (the arrival of the Persians at the river Strymon), the Magi offered a sacrifice of white horses to the river, and after they had thrown them into the stream, with a composition of various drugs, the army broke up and marched to the *Nine Ways* of the Edonians, where they found bridges prepared for their passage over the Strymon, but being informed that this place was called by the name of the Nine Ways, *they took nine of the sons and daughters of the inhabitants, and buried them alive*, as the manner of the Persians is, and I have heard that Amestris, the wife of Xerxes, having attained to a considerable age, caused *fourteen children* of the best families in Persia to be interred alive, to the honour of that god which they say is under the earth.' Notwithstanding this, these same Persians, it is admitted by Herodotus himself, though they revered fire and water, never sacrificed to either, and it was one of their tenets to preserve those elements unpolluted by blood or dead carcasses. We must not then wonder after this, that Tacitus and other historians have treated the Germanic as well as British Druids in the same manner, and mistaken their opinions of the Diety.

"However great the respect be to which Tacitus is entitled as an historian, upon the subject of religion there is little reliance upon him. Convinced, or at least appearing to be so, of the soundness of his own, he seems to have given himself very little trouble to consider, and still less to describe the principles of those which existed in his day. The Christian religion, then spreading widely and making considerable progress in Rome itself, he dismisses briefly by calling it 'an odious superstition,' the Jewish he dwells slightly upon, and as far as he ventures to describe it, he is frequently erroneous; we must not therefore be surprised if when he treats of Druidism, which was extinct, or at least dying in his time, he is equally incorrect. It is not here intended to deny the corruptions, perhaps of the precepts, certainly of the ceremonial rites of this order among the Gauls; their intercourse with the nations by whom they were surrounded, when opinions were as various as their manners, their habits, their complexions, or the climates of the countries from whence they were driven, or from which they roamed in search of food or plunder, and even their acquaintance with the civilized Romans (as has been noticed) may have introduced idolatry and perhaps human sacrifices into their worship, but it by no means follows that among the Britons, '*toto divisi orbe*,' the corruptions of their faith must of course have kept an equal pace. As well may the primitive fathers of the Christian church be supposed to be idolaters, because the artifice, the superstition of the ignorance of future ages, introduced images in processions and religious places or structures. Sammes may amuse himself by conveying Cæsar's wicker image, filled with men from Gaul to Britain, and there setting fire to it, and a much more respectable and learned author may be permitted, without imputing affectation to him, to freeze with horror or to become convulsed with rage at the raw head and bloody bones his own imagination has painted and the odious rites and sacrifices which dance before his eyes whenever this religion is mentioned; the dream of the one has long vanished, and no doubt the paroxysm of the other will be soon over. All authors admit that the lives of the Druids appear to be more virtuous, and their minds more enlightened than their contemporaries. The liberal and candid Mr. King will therefore hear us with patience, when in defence of men of such principles and such lives, we deny that there is anything like historical proof of human sacrifices having been offered up *in Britain*; and when we contend, that no author of antiquity has ever ventured to assert that fact of *his own knowledge*, or in any other way than by inference from the practice of the Gauls.

#### SUPPOSED ATTACK UPON PRIESTS AT ANGLESEA.

"Some English writers to support their hypothesis, it is true, have quoted Tacitus with the same accuracy they did Julius Cæsar upon a former part of this subject. This author in describing the attack of Suetonius Paulinus upon the priests or Druids of Anglesea (*whose sole aim was to frighten him from their shores, and deter him from murder and robbery*), says, '*Præsidium posthac impositum, victis excisisq. luci sævis superstitionibus sacri, nam cruore captivo adolere aras et hominum fibris consulere Deos fas habebant.*' To this we answer as before, that it does not appear Tacitus had any personal knowledge of this transaction; indeed it is clear that he had not, nor is it by any means ascertained that he received his information from those who lived among the Britons, or who were conversant with their customs, their religion or their language. It may therefore fairly be inferred that he drew this *ideal* picture of what *would* have been done, if the Britons had succeeded against their invaders, from a scene on the coast of Gaul, and from the ceremonies and sacrifices there said to have been practiced, and even admitting the whole of what the historian has asserted to be true, the behaviour of the Romans in that very attack upon women with dishevelled hair and inoffensive and unarmed men, and their savage barbarity after a victory, bloodless on the side of the conquerors,



may be alleged as a very powerful apology for the supposed cruelties of the oppressed and injured *savages* of the Isle of Anglesea, and perhaps it may occur to those who have turned over the volumes which record the event that have passed in distant and even later ages, among nations calling themselves civilized, that even as low down as the days of Major Andre, instances may be produced where prisoners have been sacrificed from motives and on pretences full as unjustifiable (if not more so), than those by which the Druids were thought to have been actuated, whatever that whimsical and anomalous code called the law of nations may assert to the contrary.

#### THE WORD DRUID.

“The definition of the word Druid has been the subject of controversy among the learned: some derive the word from the Celtic Derw, from whence the Greek D R U S, an oak, from their worshipping and sacrificing in oak groves, or from their veneration for the mistletoe of the oak; from Derw, says Pezron in his *Antiquities of Nations* (page 240), compounded with hûd, inchantment comes Druidæ. ‘They were the priests, sages, diviners and magicians of the ancient Gauls, who gave them that name, because they practised their divinations and enchantments in woods, and especially under oaks.’ Baxter derives the word from Deruidhon, wise men, but though he is supported by some of the Latin authors, who call them *magistri sapientiæ*, and by others of our island, who have written upon the subject, it does not appear to us that there is such a Celtic or British word as Derwidd, signifying a wise man. *These old hearts of oak therefore would probably have been admitted to have derived*, as they well deserved, their appellation from their favourite tree, if the long received opinion had not been of late considerably shaken by the definition given by a writer, to whose abilities and erudition in the Celtic or British language, at the same time that we are proud to pay this public testimony of respect, we cannot in this instance implicitly submit. Mr. William Owen in his dictionary, under the word Derwydd, says, it is derived from Dâr-gwydd, one who has knowledge of, or who is present with; a definition neither justified by authority or even perfectly intelligible, though it is easily seen how it is intended to be implied; but there does not seem to be any necessity of disturbing the etymology sanctioned by ages, adopted by historians of great learning, and confirmed by the general voice and approbation of most who have read and considered the subject.

#### THE DRUIDICAL ORDER.

“When this religion was first known in our island cannot be ascertained. Caius, an author, quoted by Lewis in his *Ancient History of Britain*, supposes it to be about the year 1013 before Christ; Stukely, in his description of Abury, with greater probability, much earlier; they consisted here as in Gaul, of three orders, Derwydd, Bardd ae Ofydd, the Druid, the bard, and the Ovate, or disciple. The first were legislators, as well as priests and philosophers; the second, poets, who sung the actions of kings and heroes, and preserved them in metrical stanzas and triplets, in order to fix more strongly in the memory their religious and moral maxims, and the last, pupils and adepts in the arts and sciences, as far as they were known in the early ages of the world. Those of the highest rank, when they acted in their juridical capacity, for the law maker and expounder were then frequently united in the same person, sat in high places, for which there were political as well as religious reasons. These meetings were called Gorseddau or the councils, and the place on which they sat, Yr Wyddfa or the conspicuous. There are many of these high hills in Wales, and indeed it is still a common appellation for an elevated situation; that lofty eminence in Herefordshire, Malvern, or Moel-y-farn, was particularly dedicated to this purpose: here the Derwydd formerly sat to make, to expound and to execute his laws, or at least to enforce their execution by his presence and commands. Two or three mountains in Breconshire, one of them of very great height, are called by the name of the Derwydd-Garn, or the Druid’s rock, and were antiently appropriated for the purposes just mentioned, which will hereafter be more particularly described.

“As a conspicuous and elevated situation was thought necessary for the Druids, as legislators or judges, so retired or secluded spots in the middle of thick groves were considered as most eligible for contemplation and the worship of the Deity, not from a persuasion of any holiness peculiar to these places, but from their being better calculated for the consideration of religious subjects, and less liable to interruption or intrusion, which they took care to prevent as far as was in their power by encouraging the greater part of the community to believe it would be attended with punishments here and hereafter. Much has been said as to their veneration for the mistletoe of the oak, and this has been objected against them as a proof of their ignorance or superstition, or both; but independent of the medical virtues, which it was supposed it did, and perhaps it really may possess (being at this day called in the Welsh language, Holl-iach or All-heal), it is by no means improbable that this vegetable, which has so pleasing a verdure in the depth of Winter, and generally grows out of old and decayed trees, was only considered by them as a lively emblem of a resuscitation in



a future state, in which they firmly believed, although they improved upon their early faith, by adding to it the transmigration of souls; a doctrine, which (however fanciful it may seem) was not without its advantages before the introduction of the gospel of Christ.

## THE CROMLECH.

“But if this harmless superstitious partiality for the misseltoe has been an object of reprehension, the *Cromlech*, the odious and hateful *Cromlech* has been confidently stated by some, and strongly conjectured by others, to have been a sort of butcher’s block or slaughtering stone, on which the throats of men were cut, or human victims knocked down like calves to the praise and glory of the Deity. It seems at first not a little extraordinary that much reading and great learning should frequently lead men into fanciful reveries and the formation of systems as whimsical as they are ephemeral, yet even this may perhaps be accounted for, when we reflect and consider that it may be permitted, perhaps wisely ordained, by Providence, to convince mankind how many errors they are liable to be led into by that *Ignis Fatuus*, human reason. Thus Mr. King describes the Cromlech as an altar of sacrifice, informs us that the slanting position of the stone is to prevent the human victim from retreating and in short is so very minute as to particulars, that one would almost suppose him to be present at this ancient *auto de Fe*. With the greatest deference to the general knowledge of this really learned man, and with all the *gentleness and coolness* peculiar to this country, we take leave to affirm that the Cromlech is no more calculated for the purpose he mentions than it is for an E O or a billiard table, and we appeal to every unlearned eye who has seen them, and who has no predilection for system-mongers and system-makers, whether they have any resemblance to the floor of a slaughter house. The same writer, however, fancies that he has discovered in the Welsh sledges and wheel carts and a few conical pigstyes near Cardiff, the remains of the British fighting cars and the huts of the ancient inhabitants, yet there is no more similitude between the two first and the antient military chariots of our remote ancestors, that that both were drawn by horses, and the form of the little buildings he describes was merely accidental and not peculiar to the country. The British fighting car with its knives or scythes attached, was calculated for an open and uninclosed country; the sledge on the contrary was first introduced into general use (though its simple construction proves it to be of very early invention) when the face of the country was totally changed by the intersection of hedges, ditches, and narrow lanes, and in parts where there are precipices and declivities, over which no waggon or even a cart can travel. The stones called Cromlechau, before they were thus converted a second time into altars, for this was the opinion some years back, were shewn by Borlase, in his *Antiquities of Cornwall* (as clearly as the nature of the case and the lapse of time will permit), to have been sepulchral; perhaps they covered the remains of the chief Druid, or else some warriors of the age, as was the case with respect to one mentioned in the following lines written in the fifth or sixth century:

Piau y bedd pedryfal,  
Ai bedwar maen am y tal?  
Bedd Madawc Marchog dywal,

To whom belongs the quadrangular grave,  
With its four stones inclosing the front?  
It is Madoc’s the intrepid warrior.

“In confirmation of this latter opinion might be cited the sentiments of a writer in the *Monthly and Gentleman’s Magazines* who subscribes, Meirion; of whose abilities a Welsh reader may form some judgment, when he peruses his other letters in those publications under that signature.

## THE BARDIC ORDER.

“The name of the second order, that of bards, is derived by Baxter from *bâr*, fury, from whence says he, *barydd* and corruptly *bardh*, a poet; from the same root he adds, comes *breuddwyd* or *barwyddyd*, a dream, as if it were a vision or prophecy. Of this opinion was the late reverend Evan Evans, generally called Evan Brydydd *hîr*, or Evan the tall bard. Owen in his dictionary derives it from *Bâr*, *one that makes conspicuous*; which word however it is observable he has not in this sense in its alphabetical order. They were the prophets and poets of their times, and continued to have some pretensions to inspiration after the first degrees were extinct and after the introduction of Christianity: Merddyn Wyllt or Merlinus Sylvestris, in the sixth century, and others, have left behind them some incoherent rhapsodies, afterwards called prophecies, but many years had not elapsed after the abolition of the superior order, before they very prudently relied more upon their merits as poets, than their mission as seers. Their second class was again divided into historical and genealogical, the latter of whom were called *Arwydd-Feirdd*, or heraldic bards; at first they were employed as ambassadors or messengers between contending princes, and afterwards their duty was to register arms and pedigrees, which, as the Welsh had no surnames, was of great utility: there were also many other reasons for the attention of the Britons to genealogy, which will be seen hereafter. One of the principal duties of the *Arwydd-Fardd* was to attend upon the birth, marriage,



or death of any Gwr-bonheddig (a gentleman or man of high descent), and to register the pedigree of his family. The cerdd foliant or song of praise, they wrote during the life of their patrons: this composition, after having extolled the hero, whose exploits it was meant to celebrate, who was generally 'more wise, more just, more everything' than any person who lived before him, frequently concluded with an intreaty from the poet for a present of a horse, a hawk, a hand-saw or some other useful article, but the Marwnad or elegy was required to contain truly and at length, the genealogy and descent of the deceased from his eight immediate ancestors 'yr wyth rhan rhieni'; to notice the several collateral branches of the family; to commemorate in elegiac verse the surviving wife or husband with her or his descent or progeny; to register them in his books<sup>1</sup>; and to deliver a true copy to the heir, in order that it might be preserved among the authentic archives of the family. It was to be fairly written, and produced by the bard on the day month after the funeral, when all the principal branches of the family and their friends were assembled together in the great hall of the mansion house, and then recited in an audible and distinct voice, for the approbation of the company; after which it was carefully deposited in the munimental chest, and from thenceforward considered as the best evidence of descent.

#### THE REGISTERS KEPT BY THE BARDS.

"To recompence the bard for his trouble, he had a stipend out of every plough-land in the country: he had also other duties. He was to make a perambulation or visitation once in every three years to the houses of all the gentlemen in the country; this was called Clera or Clych Clerw, the bard's circuit, in which he was required to preserve 'Tri chof ynis Brydain,' or the three memorials or records of the Isle of Britain. These are defined to be a chronicle of the lives and noble actions of the kings or princes of this country, secondly the elements and beauties of the British language, and particularly the preservation of the rules to be observed as to the different metres used in poetry, and thirdly to correct and arrange the pedigrees and descents of families and the entries made in their registers in the intervals; they likewise on these occasions, like the English heralds, entered in their books the arms each family were entitled to bare, and corrected, or at least forbade those who assumed them improperly, from continuing them. In this perambulation likewise they registered any remarkable events, omitted for want of authentic information, to be inserted as they occurred in their district or neighbourhood: from these books it should seem Cradoc of Llan-carvan collected the acts of the British princes from Cadwaladr to the year 1156, and afterwards the heraldic bard Guttyn Owain, who lived about the year 1480, during his circuits procured some valuable records as well as information which he has transmitted to posterity. Some late authors represent the bards so totally averse to war that it was not lawful to draw a sword in their presence, and much has been, and more *will* be said about their love of peace and hatred of discord; but with all the respect due to this order of men, who made considerable progress in knowledge, in times when the rest of their countrymen were comparatively savages, it cannot be denied that they were frequently the trumpeters of battle; all their songs were incitements to heroism, or eulogies upon those who had distinguished themselves in war, and one of their countrymen (Giraldus Cambrensis) describes them as frequently exclaiming with ardour, 'Procul hinc avertite pacem! Nobilitas cum pace perit,' or as one of the servants of Tullus Aufidius has it, 'Peace is nothing but to rust iron, increase tailors and breed ballad makers: ———the wars for my money.'

"Edward the First has been accused of having commanded the massacre of this order, which it is said was executed wherever the arm of power could reach them, but the truth of this charge is extremely doubtful; it originates, or at least was first published, by Wynne in his *History of Wales*, who wrote several centuries after this supposed proscription. No trace appears of it in any English histories, except as a quotation from Wynne, and there is not even in the early Welsh poems or chronicles (where it surely would have been preserved had the cruel tragedy been acted) any accusation of the kind.

#### THE OVATES.

"The third order, the Euvates, Ovates, or disciples was, as it is *supposed*, for little is now known as to them, employed in the rudiments of divinity, and in the study of astronomy, geography, and natural philosophy, *multa præterea de sideribus atq. eorum motu, de rerum, natura de Deorum vi ac potestate disputant et juventuti transdunt*. From this, it should seem that they were instructors of youth, and particularly of those who, after them, were candidates for entering into the Druidical institution;

<sup>1</sup> Some of these heraldic registers are still extant and are either called from the places where they are usually deposited, as the Cotterell Book in Glamorganshire, or from the name of some of the most celebrated of the heralds, who contributed to them, as Llyfr Llewelyn Offeiriad. They were not taken like the

English visitations of the College of Arms at stated periods; but being kept in the chief mansion in the province or county, they were transferred by the Arwydd-fardd to his successor, who entered the deaths and births as they occurred within his Clera or Clych.



to the higher order of which these Euvates were twenty years before they attained, or before they were perfectly qualified to receive and comprehend the mysteries of religion and government. To qualify themselves for a knowledge of the duties of the important station they were to hold in society, upon their being elected Druids, it was first necessary they should learn the system of the universe and the laws of nature. The Euvates became extinct at the same time with the first order, and, as has been before observed, have left behind little more than their name, which seems to confer upon them a further insight into futurity than could be expected from their rank.

"This unsociable, this *odious superstition*, having been prohibited to Roman citizens by Augustus, was totally proscribed by Claudius; it lingered however, as Rowland tells us upon the authority of Hector Boetius, in part of Scotland and the Isle of Man, until about the year 300 after Christ, when a king of Scotland called Cratylinth eradicated it, introduced the Christian religion, and built a new church in that island called Sodorensis Fanum or St. Saviours, from whence the present diocese takes the name of Sodor and Man, but more correctly Sodor in Man.

"To those Roman writers, who took most pains to inquire into the nature of Druidical worship, and who found they prayed to, and adored one invisible God, this system appeared cold and unsociable, while the generals, commanders of legions, and soldiers, who had been in the island, and had seen the Meini-hirion, the circular stones and rude pillars in their groves and sacred places, mistook these monuments, land marks, and temples for gods.

‘Simulacraque mæsta Deorum  
Arte carent, cæsisque extant informia truncis.’ (*Lucan*).

"They likewise concluded that they offered up sacrifices according to their own manner, and a little exaggeration, and a knowledge of the existence of the practice in Gaul, made those sacrifices consist of human victims. An inhabitant of China, who knew nothing of the English language or customs, visiting our churches in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Eighth, and seeing there the multitude of images of the Saints, would have reported us as the worshippers of many gods, and if he went to Smithfield in the reign of his daughter Mary, when the faggot blazed, and the priest attended with exulting joy, while his victim writhed with agony, he would have told his countrymen that the English were accustomed to offer up human sacrifices.

#### JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA.

"The religion of the Druids, though loaded, as we have just seen, by some Pagan and many Christian authors, who have followed them with a multitude of gods, as Taranis, Teutates, Hesus, and a swarm of Runic and Slavonian deities, being in fact too abstracted and metaphysical for the comprehension of Polytheists was, notwithstanding the doctrine of the metempsychosis, well calculated for the reception of the tenets of Christianity: accordingly we find them received in Britain at a very early period,<sup>1</sup> Capgrave, Alford, Cressy, Lewis and others assert that it was planted by Joseph of Arimathea and his companions at Glastonbury, about the year of Christ 63; but Stillingfleet<sup>2</sup> combats this position with much learning and labour and endeavours to prove that the gospel was first preached here by Saint Paul. Again, according to the Welsh Triads, the Christian religion was introduced into this island by Branfendiged, or Brennus the blessed, who became a hostage at Rome for his son Caractacus, which must have been about the year of our Lord 52. Be this as it may, it certainly did not gain ground until the latter end of the second century, (circa 172), when Eleutherius, the twelfth bishop of Rome sent two holy men, named Elvanus and Medwinus, or as others say, Faganus and Damianus or Deruvianus, for the conversion, and, as it is asserted, at the desire of Lucius, king of Britain, whom the Welsh call Llês ap Coel. This king, Usher in his *Primordia* says, was known by name of Lever mawr, which he translates "magni splendoris;" but it must be observed, that, making all due allowances for misspelling, there is no word in the Welsh like Lever, importing light, unless it be Lloer, the moon, who has been generally represented as a female. Perhaps it may be Llês Llafar mawr, or Lucius of the mighty word, i.e. verbum Dei. About this period, the Christian faith, which certainly until then had made no considerable progress, began to flourish and from thenceforward became the religion of the greatest part of the island. until some time afterwards, when the irruption of the Saxons into Britain introduced their Pagan mythology. In 314 we find three British bishops summoned to, and meeting the council at Arles. In little more than two centuries subsequent

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix for notes extracted from the *Liber Llandavensis* dealing with this subject.

<sup>2</sup> Stillingfleet in his *Origines Sacræ* charges Jeffrey of Monmouth as the father of this tale about Joseph of Arimathea. It may be so, but in an English translation of his history, published in 1702 or 1703, there is not one word on the subject; on the contrary, it is there said that Lucius and his people were the

first who embraced Christianity here. In the time of Edw. 3 (A.D. 1344), a license was issued to John Blome of London to go to Glastonbury to dig for the body of Joseph of Arimathea, according to a divine revelation he had had upon the subject (*Rymer's Fæd.* vol. 5). Unfortunately we do not hear what success he met with.



to the reign of this king Lucius, the Britains were infected with the heresy of Pelagius or Morgan, a native of this country; for the suppression of which, Germanus and Lupus (two bishops) were sent from Rome. (*Circa* 449). Having been successful in their mission, in order to perpetuate the orthodox faith, they consecrated bishops, who established schools and seminaries of theology from whence issued those primitive ministers and propagators of the gospel, who with so much laudable diligence and zeal, communicated to their countrymen the admirable precepts of their Divine Master.

#### DUBRICIUS AND ILTUTUS.

“Among the disciples of Germanus and Lupus were Dubricius and Iltutus, or Dyfrig and Illtid, two holy and learned men, who afterwards advanced the cause, and propagated the gospel of Christ far and wide, but principally among the inhabitants of South Wales. Dubricius was consecrated archbishop of Caerleon, according to Matthew of Westminster, of Landaff as others, but there is much confusion and uncertainty with respect to him and his successors; he was appointed about the year 490, says Stillingfleet, by Teiliaus, or Teilaw, who was succeeded by Oudoceus, after whom came St. David, who removed the see to Mynyw or Menevia in Pembrokeshire, much to the dissatisfaction of some of the successors of Dubricius, so that there was afterwards a schism or division between them and a protestation was entered against it before Calixtus the Second, in 1116. St. David was maternally of Brecknockshire origin, being the son of Melari, daughter of Brychan Prince of Brecknock; by some he is made the successor of Dubricius, we believe incorrectly, as he is placed by Brown Willis, in his *History of the See of St. David's*, in the see in the year 577; previous to this the inhabitants of Brecknockshire were much indebted to Iltutus for his labours among them: he established a seminary or school of theology at Llantwit or Llanilltid in Glamorganshire, and we have several places in this county which were dedicated, or at least preserve the memory of his name; one of them tradition reports to have been his occasional residence. At this period, and for some centuries afterwards, the cathedral was the *parish* church of the whole diocese, and the whole district or province over which the bishop presided, was called *y plwyf*, as *y plwyf Dewi*, *y plwyf Teilaw*, the parish of St. David's, the parish of St. Teilaw or Landaff, indeed at this moment the Welsh have no name for a *diocese*, although they have one for a bishoprick. The extent of this parish or jurisdiction, accounts for the merit afterwards allowed to those who made a pilgrimage to St. David's, and a pilgrimage it most certainly was to the inhabitants of the county of Brecon, who lived at such a distance from it; consequently they were not only under great obligations to Iltutus for his personal exertions in preaching the gospel among them, but for establishing his school, from whence came many pious and learned persons who trod in his footsteps, and displayed the truths of Christianity among the then almost savage natives. At this time, we are told by Matthew of Westminster, the English metropolitans of London and York, whose names were Theonius and Thadiocus, with several of their clergy, were obliged to take refuge in Wales, from the oppression of the Saxons, who burnt their churches, and prosecuted their persons; some of these prelates and ministers no doubt contributed their assistance and labours towards the conversion and instruction of the inhabitants of South Wales, though their names are now forgotten.

#### THE MONKS OF BANGOR.

“Until this period, and indeed until the massacre of the monks of Bangor by the *instigation of Austin*, as it is said, though we hope untruly, the British church preserved its independence of the see of Rome, with which they had a dispute about the time of celebrating Easter: Taliesin denounces the judgments of Heaven against the clergy, who did not oppose the oppressions and extortions of that church:

“Gwae'r offeiriad byd  
Ni's angreiffia gwyd  
Ag ni phregetha:  
Gwae ni cheidw ei gael,  
Ag ef yn fugail  
Ag nis areilia;  
Gwae ni cheidw ei ddefaid  
Rhag bleiddiaid Rhufeiniaid  
Ai ffon gnwppa.

Woe to the worldly priest  
Who will not reprove vice  
And will not preach:  
Woe to him who looks not to his flock,  
Though he calls himself their shepherd  
And yet watches them not.  
Woe to him who protects not his sheep  
From the wolves of Rome  
With *his* crooked staff.

“When the British clergy were murdered *en masse*, as they were at Bangor, and oppressed by the prevailing influence of the Roman monks and missionaries, assisted by the power of the Saxons and afterwards of the Normans, they became as abject as they were before spirited and resolute, and from the time of the latter, we see them obeying with implicit submission whomsoever their conquerors choose to put over them, and mixing with uncomplaining insignificance in the disregarded and unvalued herd. Giraldus Cambrensis, from motives which may as well not be too minutely inquired into, formed an exception to this position, and boldly stood forth the champion of the see



of St. David's, soon after its metropolitical jurisdiction had been surrendered to Canterbury by a foreigner, whose duty it was to have protected and preserved its rank and privileges.

## GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS.

"Gerald, the Welshman, was born at Manerbier in Pembrokeshire, about the middle of the twelfth century; the exact date of his birth cannot be ascertained. By the mother's side he was descended from the princes of South Wales, and paternally from Gerald, the ancestor of the Leinster family. English genealogists are fully satisfied with tracing the Geraldines up to Gerard or Gerald Fitzwalter, third son of Walter Fitz-other in the time of Henry the First, while our Arwydd-feirdd, or heraldic bards, in their accustomed manner, follow them upwards for seven or eight generations before that period, as far back as Zuria Lopez the Fair, first lord of Biscay. One of his descendants, they say, of the name of Gerald Dias Lopez, being expelled by his bastard brother Inigo, went to Florence, where the family settled for a short time. Other, the third in descent from the last named, Lopez, lived in Normandy; his son Walter came over into England with the Conqueror, and had issue, among others, Gerald, Castellan of Windsor and Seneschal of Pembroke, whose wife was Nest, daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr, prince of South Wales, by whom he had a daughter Angharad, who married William de Barri, the father of Giraldus Cambrensis. He was the youngest of four brothers, and though he acknowledges that when very young he was of too playful a disposition, yet at an early age he showed so strong an attachment to religion that his father used to call him his little bishop: in this turn of thinking he was encouraged and confirmed by his uncle, David Fitzgerald, Bishop of St. David's. After long application to study and three years' residence in Paris (then the principal seminary of learning in Europe), he was, upon his return into England, fixed upon by Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, to preach up the payment of tythes to his countrymen, who it seems were at that time very remiss in their duty to the Church in this respect, and he had also authority to reform such other abuses as he might observe in his progress through the see of St. David's. He lost not a moment in executing his commission, and upon his entrance into Brecknockshire, finding that an old man of the name of Jordan, who was archdeacon of that district, publicly kept a concubine (as was too often the case amongst the clergy of those days), he at first remonstrated with him and admonished him in the name of the archbishop of Canterbury to turn his mistress out of doors: this request appeared so unreasonable as well as impertinent to the hoary-headed debauchee (for such he was, if Gerald is believed), that he defied and abused both the archbishop and his commissary; he was however soon made to feel the force of ecclesiastical power. Gerald instantly suspended him and deprived him of his preferments and benefices, and the primate was so pleased with his spirit, that when he made the report to him of his proceedings, in which (without doubt) he did not forget to inform his Grace of the foul language used by the old clergyman towards his metropolitan, that he prevailed upon the bishop of St. David's to bestow the vacant archdeaconry upon him, reserving for his predecessor a small pension, *in order to keep him quiet*.

## HIS ITINERARY THROUGH WALES.

"This transaction does not leave the commissary's character entirely free from suspicion; it is impossible to avoid observing that he tells his own story to the archbishop, and (as the event turned out) it should seem, with a view to his own benefit. The business of the hush-money also proves that all was not as it should be; but be this as it may, and however he may have acquired his dignity, he certainly conducted himself, when in possession of it, with great courage as well as vigilance and became a zealous defender of the rights of the archdeaconry. Four years after his collation, he was again selected by Baldwin, successor to Richard in the see of Canterbury, to accompany him through Wales, and assist him in preaching up the Crusades, in which, according to his account, they met with very great success. It was in this progress he wrote his *Itinerary*; a work that contains much valuable information, and though it is plentifully sprinkled and interspersed with marvels, miracles, and pious legends, yet the style of the priest and the historian as well as traveller differs so much, that we instantly discover when the conjuring cap is going to be put on; so that there is no danger of the characters being confounded or mistaken.

## MEETS BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH AT KERRY.

"To the activity and courage of Gerald, the diocese of St. David's and archdeaconry of Brecon are probably indebted for the greatest part of Radnorshire and the two parishes of Kerry and Mough-treff in Montgomeryshire, which in his time were claimed by the bishop of Saint Asaph as part of his see, and who to support his pretensions, called upon the inhabitants of Powys and Cedewin to assist him in taking possession of the church of Kerry by force, if he could not obtain it otherwise. Gerald had just returned to Brecknock, or rather to his house at Llanddew near that town, from a journey to the borders of North Wales, when he was informed of the bishop's intentions, and though



he was not recovered from the fatigue of his former excursion, and his friends and dependents fearing the power of the prelate, endeavoured to dissuade him from meeting him, he resolved without hesitation to prevent his intrusion into the district committed to his care; he therefore crossed the Wye without delay, summoned the clergy of Radnorshire to meet him at Kerry, and not choosing to rely entirely upon his own arguments, or even the justice of his cause, while he apprehended a resistance by force, or an opposition by numbers, he prevailed upon Einion Glyd and Cadwallon, two of the reguli of the country, to furnish him with a body of horse to defend the rights of the see of St. David's, if necessary. Thus assisted, he entered the church of Kerry, before the bishop's arrival, tolled the bells and said mass there. When he was informed of the prelate's approach, he prohibited him from setting his foot upon the threshold of the house of God, unless he came there peaceably and as a friend; upon this, the bishop offered to produce and show him an ancient book to prove that not only this church, but all others between Wye and Severn, were within the diocese of St. Asaph. 'You may write what you please (says Gerald) in your own book, but I know it has belonged to St. David's these last three hundred years, and by the grace of God, I'll preserve it to that see, while I have breath.' 'I'll excommunicate you,' says the prelate. 'If you do (quoth the archdeacon) I'll also excommunicate you.' 'But you cannot (says the other), you are only an archdeacon, and I am a bishop.' 'If you are a bishop (says Gerald) you are not my bishop, and have no more right to pass sentence upon me than I have upon you.' Hereupon the bishop alighted from his horse, and in order that his anathema might have greater weight and solemnity, he put on his mitre, grasped his crosier and approached (followed by a crowd of his attendants), but the archdeacon, who knew the man's disposition, that he was a quarrelsome prating fellow and rash and precipitate in his measures, ordered the Radnorshire clergy, who attended in pursuance of his summons, to accompany him arrayed in white robes and surplices and other sacerdotal vestments, carrying the cross and lighted tapers as in a procession.

"'Hollo! (says the bishop) what are ye at now?' 'Only preparing (says Gerald) if you should be rash enough to excommunicate us, to excommunicate you at the same instant of time.' 'Well then (says the prelate) on account of the friendship we had for you when we studied together at Paris, we will be merciful to you and not excommunicate you by your respective names; but we hereby excommunicate all those who seek to deprive the see of St. Asaph of her rights.' 'And we (says Gerald in a still louder voice) hereby excommunicate all those who wish to deprive the see of Saint David's of her rights,' and then looking up at the bells which hung at a little distance behind him, he ordered them to be *clammed*<sup>1</sup> three times (a sound, it seems, peculiarly disagreeable to Welsh ears); this he meant as a confirmation of his sentence, and to disgrace his adversary, and it seems it produced that effect, for the bishop instantly mounted his horse and quitted *the field of altercation*, followed by the mob, who had collected together to see the issue of this dispute, and who according to their usual custom made a great noise, hooted, and threw sticks, stones, and turf after him.

"In his retreat, he called upon Cadwallon, perhaps the same who had furnished his adversary with assistance, and who was therefore anxious to hear how the business at Kerry had ended. This chieftain immediately interrogated the prelate on the subject, who endeavoured to evade further inquiry by assuring him that he really did not think himself safe in the company of that confounded archdeacon; but that he did not choose to take any steps to his prejudice, because they had been formerly companions and fellow students. His opponent, not satisfied with defeating him, determined to be himself the herald of his victory; he followed him to the court of Cadwallon, where instead of reviving the dispute or upbraiding the bishop upon the injustice of his attempt, he entirely altered his conduct, and as he was now in the diocese of Saint Asaph, he professed the most implicit deference and obedience to the diocesan's commands, proffered him with a provoking civility, the choicest viands and begged that as they were formerly companions in France, when they were poor men and in private life, they might again become good neighbours and friends. The bishop hesitated, yet after some consideration he thought it most prudent to receive his presents and in order to conclude the business with seeming good humour, he sent to assure the archdeacon that he did not love him the less in consequence of what had passed, but rather esteemed him the more for detending so stoutly the rights of his Church.

"This quarrel betwixt the men of God occasioned much mirth and loud laughter in the English court, where it was reported by the conqueror himself, preceded by an observation, which at the same time that it displayed his arrogance, came with a very bad grace from him. He told the English courtiers that as the laity of Wales were well known to be thieves of their neighbours'

<sup>1</sup> "Clamming" is a campanological phrase for making the bells all strike at once.



property, so their bishops were habituated to steal churches. He was now a great favourite with Henry the Second, but he was soon doomed to feel the weight of this monarch's resentment.

## ELECTED BISHOP OF ST. DAVIDS.

"The chapter of St. David's were so much pleased with his successful resistance to the attempted encroachment upon the diocese, that they elected him their bishop upon the death of Peter, theretofore prior of Wenlock. Upon this occasion the great and enlightened Plantagenet was actuated by a narrow and illiberal policy, or influenced by an impulse of passion which disgraces his memory; he was so hurt at the election being made without his consent, that though he admired Giraldus for his learning and abilities, he from this moment determined to persecute him, a resolution in which he persevered with unrelenting animosity during the remainder of his life, though he had a little while previous to this publicly declared that he would have promoted Giraldus to the highest ecclesiastical dignity in his kingdom, *if he had not been a Welshman* and a descendant of Rhys ap Tewdwr. From henceforth then, we find this intrepid son of the church, combating the power of the King of England and the archbishop of Canterbury, at the risk of his life and the sacrifice of nearly the whole of his property, in his endeavours to restore the see of St. David's to its archiepiscopal dignity: in this arduous contest we see him unsubdued by power, unawed by menaces and uncorrupted by money (although all these means and temptations were employed), steadily persevering in the cause he had espoused, and though unsuccessful, yet with spirit unbroken.

"As an instance of his magnanimity in adversity, and his contempt of the perils which surrounded him, it is related of him that, when he was travelling through the almost impervious wilds of Ystradowy, and over the mountains of Cantreff bychan in his road to England, he was met by a messenger from his dean at Brecon, who informed him that all his lands there, as well as at Llanddew, and all other lands belonging to the bishoprick which he held during the vacancy of the see, were seized by the officers and ministers of *William de Breos* for the use of the Crown. At Llywel in Breconshire, another messenger met him and confirmed the tale, adding also that his own private property had been levied by a mandate from the King's justiciary: the archdeacon unmoved by this unpleasant intelligence, pursued his journey, and when the dean himself, with pallid looks and in trembling accents, related to him his misfortunes, at the distance of about two miles from Llanddew, in the road between Trallong and Aberescir, exaggerating the injuries he had received, and the danger he was exposed to, and at the same time entreating that he would return to Saint David's, as the part of the diocese most distant from his enemies, he jocularly called out to him: 'What! have we no good ale left in my house at Llanddew?' Finding (as we must presume he did, though the answer is not given in the publication mentioned in the margin) that that was safe, he proceeded, 'Well, then, let's go and drink it, that it may not fall into the hands of those Norman plunderers.' So saying, he pursued his journey, entered his house and settled his affairs there with the same coolness and deliberation as in the plenitude of his power; but perceiving that his struggles against the King and the primate would be ineffectual in an English court or before English prelates, he appealed to Rome (the only resort then left to him), where he appeared without loss of time, though not without much difficulty, to support in person the validity of his election and the dignity of his see. Here he presents us with a shocking scene of corruption and depravity. The Pontiff appears to have amused him from day to day, sometimes cajoling and addressing him by the name of bishop, at other times condemning his adversaries in costs, because he knew they could best afford to pay them, and after he had squeezed all he could out of both sides, he sent them home equally disappointed, declaring the election of Giraldus, as well as that of the court candidate for the bishoprick of St. David's void; leaving undecided the question as to the rank of the see of St. David's, and without confirming the right of the metropolitan of Canterbury, who was in firm expectation of having it established by dint of corruption and the influence of the English monarch.

## WELSH PRINCES PETITION TO THE POPE.

"In the prosecution of this business, the princes of North and South Wales, commissioned their countrymen to present a petition to the Pope on behalf of the British Church, which, as it states in language as pathetic as we fear it was true, the oppressions and injuries it suffered in those days, we cannot refrain from inserting: 'To the right reverend father and lord Innocent, by the grace of God chief pontiff. Llewelyn prince of North Wales, Gwenwynwyn and Madoc princes of Powys, Griffith and Maelgwn, Rhys and Meredith sons of Rhys prince of South Wales, *send* health and due obedience in all things; be it known to your fatherly goodness, what hardships and danger of the loss of souls the church of Wales hath sustained since by royal violence, and not by the authority of the apostolic see, it became subject to the power of England and to the metropolitan of Canterbury. First then, the archbishops of Canterbury, as a matter of course with them, send us English bishops ignorant of



the manners and language of our country, and who can neither preach the word of God to the people, nor receive their confessions, but through the medium of interpreters; they do not appoint them after a canonical election, but rather force them upon us by intrusion and violence; or if they sometimes have recourse to the ceremony of an election, it is not done openly, but secretly and privately; calling our clergy into England, and compelling them in the King's chambers there to elect whomsoever they choose, however vile or abject. Besides, these bishops, thus sent us from England (as they neither love us or our country, but rather prosecute and persecute us with an innate and rooted hatred) seek not the welfare of souls; their ambition is to rule over, not to benefit us, for which reason they seldom exercise the duties of their pastoral office among us, but everything which they can lay their hands upon or get from us, whether by right or wrong means, they carry into England, and waste and consume the whole of the profits obtained from us in the abbies and lands given them by the King of England, and there like the Parthians who let fly their arrows as they fled and at a great distance, they excommunicate us as often as they are ordered to do so. The lands and possessions bestowed by the devout bounty of our ancestors upon the cathedrals of Wales, as they love not our country, they sell, give away and alienate to the clergy as well as the laity. We therefore on our parts, as we see the lands of the church thus liable to be given away and torn from it, have *ourselves* taken away some part of the property of the church and now hold it; from whence it comes to pass that the cathedral churches of Wales are brought into extreme poverty and misery, which if they had been blessed with good and pious prelates would have been noble and rich. Add to this, that as often as the English make incursions into our land, immediately the archbishop of Canterbury proceeds to lay our whole country under an interdict, and involves us individually, as well as our people in general, who only fight for our country and in defence of our liberty, under a sentence of excommunication, and compels those very bishops to pronounce it, whom he created and sent among us, and who are always *very ready* to obey him on these occasions. Hence it happens that as often as we enter into war for the defence of our country against a nation of enemies, whoever falls in the battle on our side, falls under sentence of excommunication: against these and many other hardships, which the canons of Saint David's, with Gerald the archdeacon, their bishop elect (a venerable discreet man) will explain to you more fully by word of mouth, we seek with tears and groans from your holiness (to whom the government of the universal church belongs) effectual remedies, intreating, and with one voice supplicating, that you would relieve your children, thus miserably oppressed during the time of the three last bishops of St. David's by the English church, in consequence of its illegal subjection to the see of Canterbury; for before the time of these three bishops, the church of St. David's was the seat of the primate of all Wales, and only subject on old times, as a metropolitan to the mother church of Rome; therefore if you will condescend to look with an eye of pity upon us, whatever services are in our power, either in persons or properties, shall always be at the command of the blessed apostle Peter, and we will always readily and willingly undertake them, and so we bid your fatherhood (thus dear to us) farewell in the Lord! This petition had no further effect upon his paternal holiness than to enable him to squeeze a few more pounds out of the pockets of the English party, who were alarmed at the probability of its success. Thus far, Giraldus Cambrensis: little remains of importance after this time to be noticed.

#### ENDOWMENTS OF BRECONSHIRE CHURCHES.

"It is impossible to ascertain precisely the times when the churches in Brecknockshire were erected, nor do any of their endowments, one of Hay only excepted, remain; the whole, or at least the greatest part of their documents were carried away by the monks to the continent upon the reformation. In the register books of the diocese of St. David's, the dates of presentations to benefices begin only in the year 1398, since which time they are tolerably regular. Most of our churches from their style of architecture, appear to have been built subsequent to the Norman Conquest—one of the earliest, if not the most ancient structure of this kind, we are inclined to think was Llanddewi (St. David's), now called Llanddew,<sup>1</sup> two miles north-east of Brecon, where the archdeacon of this district formerly resided; this seems to have been so named from the cathedral church, to which it was, what would now be called a chapel of ease. Near the site of the present church was formerly a castellated mansion, where the Bishops of St. David's resided; it is still (1800) the property of the diocesan of that see, and from its situation in the eastern extremity of his jurisdiction, it was well calculated for the convenience of the prelate, when he visited this district, or in his journey to and from England, and here Giraldus Cambrensis says, Baldwyn archbishop of

<sup>1</sup> Llanddewi means St. David's church or churchyard; Ty Ddewi, by which St. David's Cathedral is known is St. David's house. Some persons have erroneously supposed this parish church to mean the church of God:—but it is not customary

to dedicate a church to the first person in the Trinity, and to this it may be added that if it was intended to be called God's church it would have been written Llandduw, and not Llanddew.



Canterbury, slept a night in his progress through South Wales in the time of Henry the Second. The other churches in the county (St. John the Evangelist only excepted which was repaired, but, we rather think, not built by Bernard Newmarch) were erected by the followers and dependants of our Norman conqueror, and the lords marchers who succeeded him; sometimes out of pious motives, but more frequently as a compensation for murder, robbery and other crimes, and until the Reformation these plunderers, being possessed of the greater part of the county, presented to most of the livings: to several of them certainly with great justice, to some of them because they thought themselves sufficiently strong and powerful to do so, until that strength and that power made their heads giddy, when they quarrelled with the Crown, which, when more powerful than themselves, though that was not always the case, tumbled them from the pinnacle of their grandeur and reduced them into subjects. Upon the Reformation, here, as in most other places, the revenues which the ill judged piety of individuals had conferred upon the church were seized by the Crown; so that to the bishop of the sec, the only proper patron of church preferment, out of fifty-two benefices in this county, only seven were left, the whole incomes of which did not amount to the twentieth part of those in the presentation of the king or of individuals, or even to the value of two of the most lucrative in lay patronage.

#### THE CHURCH DURING THE TIME OF CHARLES AND THE COMMONWEALTH.

“Upon the breaking out of the civil wars in the time of Charles the First, the greatest part of this country was of the established religion, though there were a few families near Crickhowel and on the borders of Monmouthshire who were of the Roman Catholic persuasion; in the southern and western sides of the county, there were also a few Presbyterians, and among them was a character who made a distinguished figure in support of the Commonwealth, who will be noticed hereafter.

“It appears by a pamphlet,<sup>1</sup> published some short time before the restoration, that, in March 1651 a petition was presented to Parliament on behalf of the inhabitants of the six counties in South Wales and the county of Monmouth, by Colonel Edward Freeman, a barrister, at that time attorney general to the Commonwealth for South Wales, in which the petitioners acknowledge the constant care of Parliament in providing for the supply of their spiritual necessities and the advancement of the gospel of Christ, and particularly in passing the Act of the 22nd of February, 1649, entitled, ‘An Act for the propagation of the gospel in Wales,’ so well intended and so much to the satisfaction of the inhabitants of Wales, but the petitioners humbly begged leave to state that since the passing of this Act most of the ministers of South Wales and of the county of Monmouth, were ejected from their benefices and that few or none of the said respective counties were supplied with a competent number of able teachers to officiate in the room of the ousted ministers; neither had there been provided a sufficient number of godly schools for the education of children and the advancement of learning, as was the intention of Parliament, and the purport of the Act, there not being above four or five itinerant preachers in some of the counties, which consisted of one hundred and twenty parishes, and the least of them contained fifty parishes, many whereof had more than two thousand souls. That some persons deriving authority from the said Act had, for the two years then last past, received and disposed of the profits of the tythes of church livings and other benefices and impropriations sequestered within the said six counties of South Wales and the county of Monmouth, which were annually worth £20,000 or thereabouts, out of which little had been converted towards the propagation of the gospel or even accounted for by them to the state. That, for want of a due execution of the said Act, the petitioners together with the inhabitants endured a famine of the Word of God, children were not brought up in the instruction and information of the Lord, the vast revenues of the ousted ministers were set out at an extraordinary undervalue, the churches were in most places shut up and the fabrics thereof ready to fall to the ground for want of repair, so that the inhabitants were unable to take notice of the acts, edicts, and proclamations of Parliament, wherein the public welfare, the liberty and safety of their persons and estates were concerned, for want of a sufficient number of teachers in each county to publish the same. The petitioners therefore out of their duty to God, the preservation of the souls of the inhabitants of their country, the Commonwealth’s interest, and the earnest desire that the pious intention of the Parliament, as expressed in the Act, might be carried into effect, held themselves bound in conscience, ‘out of a christian and soule saving necessitie’ to present the premises for the Parliament’s consideration, earnestly intreating them in pursuance of their wonted zeal and unfeigned attention to God’s glory and the increase of true religion, learning and piety, to take such course for the future supply of the respective counties, with such convenient number of godly, able teachers, and for provision of schools and nurseries of learning and religion there, and that those who had received the profits of

<sup>1</sup> “Petition of the Six Counties of Wales,” etc.



tythes, livings and other ecclesiastical benefices might account for the same at such time, manner and place, as to the Parliament should seem meet. Colonel Freeman, when he presented this petition to the house, assured them that it was not presented with an intention of bringing in 'any *scandalous and ejected ministers*, as was suggested by some, but out of a soul saving necessity,' and after going on for some time in this strain, he concluded, 'as we ayme at the glory of God and the public good, so let God blesse us and give a gracious issue to our humble desires.'

EDMUND JONES, OF BUCKLAND, ATTORNEY GENERAL.

"Upon the tenth of March, 1651, after this petition had been read, the Parliament resolved, that it be referred to the committee for plundered ministers to examine this business and to state matters of fact, and report their opinions thereon to the Parliament, with power to the same committee to send for persons, papers and witnesses, and secondly that the same committee should have power to examine on oath and to authorize such commissioners in the country as they should think fit, to examine witnesses upon oath, touching any of the matters contained in the petition, and to return their petitions to the said committee. The petition being to be taken into consideration on the sixteenth of March, Major General Harrison, who was one of the most active of the *propagators of the gospel in Wales*, and who was supposed to be deeply implicated in the charges made by this petition, objected to it, as being too general, and under various pretences, prevailed upon the Parliament to postpone the hearing of it until the latter end of the summer in 1652; in the meantime Colonel Freeman being thought too active in the business, was twice arrested, once while he was attending his duty as a barrister at the Great Sessions at Presteigne, and confined for a considerable time. He was also soon afterwards removed from his office of attorney general for South Wales, and Mr. Edmund Jones of Buckland, whom the petitioners call a *compounded delinquent*, appointed in his room. Mr. John Gunter of Trevecca, solicitor for the petitioners, showing also too earnest an anxiety for their interests, was for the same reason imprisoned, though both were afterwards released, yet without any satisfaction for the injuries they received.

BRECONSHIRE PETITION TO PARLIAMENT.

"In 1653 the Parliament was dissolved, which put an end to this petition. A fresh one was presented, soon after the meeting of the new Parliament in which, after recapitulating their former grievances, they proceed to state further particulars, and among other things, that in the county of Brecon one might ride twenty miles on Sunday without finding a church door open; that upwards of fifty of them were at that time not supplied with ministers; that in the parishes of Llanvihangel-nant-brân, Llandilo'r fân, Trallong and the College of Brecon, where there was formerly a lecture once a fortnight, and in many other churches, the Word of God had not been taught for the then last two years; that in the town of Brecon, being one of the chiefest corporations and one of the most populous towns in South Wales, and in the towns of Crickhowel, Hay, and Builth, being all market towns, there had not been any one constant able teacher or minister for two years; that the persons named and intrusted for approvers<sup>1</sup> by the said Act of February, 1649, lived at a very remote distance from one another, some in North Wales, some in South Wales, and one of them in London, who were itinerant preachers and whose residence therefore was uncertain and unsettled; that they seldom met to encourage others to offer themselves to serve the cures instead of the ejected ministers, though the commissioners for dispossessing them turned them out by five or twelve at a time, and very seldom heard appeals; that the schoolmaster at the college in Brecon, of the name of Phillip Williams, was not of competent learning for his station; that his usher Hugh Powel, though a man of learning, was a Papist; that in this county no less than one doctor in divinity, three bachelors in divinity, eighteen masters of arts and ten graduates, were ejected, and only four ministers and three schoolmasters were allowed to hold their livings or places, and that the tythes seized here by Colonel Harrison, Colonel Phillip Jones, Colonel Jenkin Jones, Sir John Trevor knight, Henry Herbert esquire, William Herbert, William Parker, William Bleddin, Christopher Catchmayd and the other commissioners named in the Act, amounted to two thousand five hundred pounds per annum.

LETTERS FROM THREE BRECONSHIRE CLERGYMEN.

It does not appear from this pamphlet what success attended this second petition; probably the arts and the influence of Major-General Harrison and his associates prevailed, until the Restoration, and the clergy of the old established religion (on whose behalf it was certainly presented, though they endeavoured to conceal that fact from the Parliament) were obliged to submit to the reigning powers, though not without some struggles, as will be seen from the following letters (soon after

<sup>1</sup> These were persons appointed under this act for the propagation of the gospel, upon the abolition of episcopacy, to examine persons applying for holy orders or a licence to preach;

if approved, a certificate was granted under the hands of one or more of them, which completed the ceremony of puritanical ordination.



Cromwell had assumed the Protectorship) from the Reverend Thomas Lewis rector of Llanvigan, Thomas Powel rector of Cantreff, and Griffith Hattley vicar of Aberescir, to Colonel Jenkin Jones of Llanddetty, the partizan of the Commonwealth, and afterwards of the usurper until he showed a disposition to obtain the crown, when it is said he expressed himself in terms of indignation and detestation of his conduct.

Mr. Jones,

We desire to be resolved by you, whether the ejected ministers of this country, who have been silenced and suspended now this long time *ab officio et beneficio*, may at last have the door of utterance opened and be permitted to preach the gospel freely, among those that do much want it, and do as earnestly call for it as the parched earth after the dew and rain of Heaven. The reason why we put this businesse to the question is, because about the last spring, some of our fellow ministers taking the boldness to preach the word of God, (were some of them) sent prisoners to Chepstow garrison, others pulled out of the pulpit, and all the rest were threatened to have the same measure metted to them, if they would make the same attempts, and therefore we desire to know, whether we are under the same restraint still or are at liberty; wee doubt not but you can resolve us herein as well as any other in this county, and we hope you will be pleased to satisfie our civil request herein and vouchsafe a line of answer, which you may direct to either of the subscribers,

Who are, Sir, Your friends as far as you are a friend  
to Christ and his ways,

THOMAS LEWIS,  
THOMAS POWEL,  
GRIFFITH HATTLEY.

February 6, 1653.

To which Mr Jones returned the following answer :

Gentlemen,

Your letter, dated February 6, 1653, I received the first of March, and in answer to what you propose therein I shall only put you in minde that you are (more) than like to be in the same condition with those in the last spring, and tell you that you are to expect the same measure from the present power, [See the Government or the articles signed by the lord Protector] whose connivance you seem (at least) to fancy to yourselves, as your brethren had the last spring from the (then) powers, and also that you need not pretend being pressed as from pitty to water the parched earth, there being more sermons (now) preached in one month than were formerly in twelve months, and with very much (though I dare not say) a greater blessing. Consider the restraint fearing spirit that is in you.

Your Friend and Servant

JENKIN JONES.

March 2d, 1653.

This letter produced a spirited reply from the three clergymen :

Mr. Jones.

Wee thank you for your letter, wherein you have fully resolved us what wee must expect, if we preach the gospel in this poor countrey, nothing but bonds and imprisonment (if you divine aright) abide us; if wee be silent and doe not preach, we are reproached and if we doe preach we are menaced: a hard dilemma; Sir! notwithstanding your pains in preaching, *which is much abated of what it was since you caught the fish which you looked for*; here are many dry and thirsty souls in this country, that are very seldom refreshed with the dewe of heavenly doctrine, and for want thereof doe daily relapse to popery, and that in no small number; we could name twenty parish churches in this county, in many whereof, there have not been above two sermons this twelve months, and in most of them none at all; yet the inhabitants pay their tythes still as formerly. Their complaints have filled the ears of men long since, and have no doubt before this ascended to the ears of the Lord of Sabboth; we shall therefore in compassion to these souls adventure to bestow our paines upon them, and put ouselves upon the candour and clemency of our present governour, from whom we do expect (and doubt not to find) better measures than you forebode us, or than our fellow ministers received (last spring) when other powers swayed; to wit your own. That there are more sermons preached now in a month than were formerly in twelve will hardly find credit with any one that knows this country, and is such a story as men will admire to have proceeded from your pen; since that we do not know of above two itinerant preachers resident in the countrey, and one of those two hardly worth the name of a preacher; whereas there was formerly a preaching minister almost in every parish, some impropriations except, and most of them graduated in the universities, and able and painfull men in their callings. Consider better of that passage of your letter, and consider what spirit *you* are of, for the spirit of God is a spirit of truth, *nec mendax nec mordax*.

Your loving friends,

THOMAS LEWIS,  
THOMAS POWEL,  
GRIFFITH HATTLEY.

For this steadiness in the cause of the Established Church and for the loyalty he showed to his king, Charles the Second, for once, condescended to be grateful, and recommended Mr Thomas Powel (one of the above clergymen) to the chapter of Bristol, soon after the Restoration, as a proper person to fill the episcopal chair of that see; but he died before consecration. The other two outlived the troubles and were restored to their benefices.

To form an estimate of the religion of Breconshire in 1800, it may be said that two parts out of three of the inhabitants called themselves of the Established Church, the other third Anabaptists, (a sect which at that period rapidly increased), Methodists, Presbyterians, and Independents; of the two latter, the Presbyterians were the most numerous. But in this calculation of the numbers of the Church of England we include a sect who may (if it be not a solecism) be called no religionists; persons who, when it is necessary to make a profession of their faith, say, they are of the Protestant Established Church, but who, in fact, never attend the worship of the Church or, indeed, any other place of worship; it is much to be lamented that this sect (if we may so call those who are neither *gregarious* or *systematic*) are yet increasing very fast, particularly in towns; some are corrupted by superficial writers and superficial thinkers; these constitute the majority of this description; others



again are led into this error from indolence and thoughtlessness; both are equally mischievous to the community, independent of the doctrines of rewards and punishment in a future state: it is with sorrow we observe, that this example of inattention (to call it by no worse name) is most frequently seen among those of superior stations in life; in which however they will find, they are followed closely, by those below them, down to the dapper tradesman and his spruce apprentice and shopman; a consequence which naturally follows, and which sooner or later, in proportion as the evil increases with more or less rapidity, must terminate in infinite mischief to the peace and happiness of society."

#### EARLY CHURCH HISTORY OF BRECKNOCK.

Of the introduction of Christianity into Wales little is known. In all probability the earliest missionaries reached this island from Gaul, the Church finding its earliest home amid Roman settlers and in Roman stations. How and when the Roman-British Church passed over to the British population there is no evidence to show.

The word Llan is derived from the Latin planum, an enclosure. It is the most ordinary commencement of Welsh parochial names; it suggests the formation of parishes at some date subsequent to the Roman occupation, when corrupted Latin words had been incorporated with the Welsh language. The distribution of the word may also indicate the extent of country over which the Welsh language prevailed at the date of the formation of the parishes. In every Welsh county, except Flint, *Llan* is a common prefix; in Flint it occurs only twice, and that on the Welsh side of the county. In Monmouth there are 53 parishes thus named; in the south of Hereford there are seven instances, and in Salop four. These counties, though forming no part of Wales, all abut upon the Principality; in no other part of England is there any instance of the word being used.

Deducting from the parish the syllable *Llan*, the remainder represents the name of the saint who was the first parochial priest, the founder of the Church. Thus, where a parish bears the name of a Welsh saint, it may be considered as dating from before the Norman Conquest. The names of parishes in Brecknock are frequently derived from the immediate descendants of Brychan, and preceded the foundation of the See of St. David's, the saint himself being, on the female side, a grandson of Brychan. The story of Brychan, already given, is thought by some to indicate an incursion of Irish missionaries. There seems no reason to depart from the traditional narrative.

A second origin of parish names represents the Bishopric to which the parish was affiliated. Gwynfardd Brycheiniog (the grey bard of Brecknock), writing in the latter part of the 12th century, mentions twenty churches "owned" by St. David ("Dewi the Great of Menevia"). Amongst them in Brecknock—

Llanfaes, a lofty place, shall not suffer by war,  
Nor the church of Llywell from any hostile band;  
Garthbregu, the hill of Dewi, void of disgrace,  
And Trallwng Cynfyn by the dales.

In the case of a divided parish, the later church may retain the name of the mother church with some descriptive addition—Llandefaelog tre'r graig (St. Mailog on the rock); Llandewi'r Cwm (the Church of St. David in the valley). Where many churches are named after the same Bishopric such a distinction is very necessary. Many of these Bishop-named parishes may have been so-called at a date when the boundaries of the Sees of Llandaff and St. David's were in dispute, to establish, if possible, the ownership of the parish. Thus a district west of Brecon is styled in *Liber Llandavensis* Llangurnact, though by the boundaries given we are enabled to identify it with the present parish of Llandeilo'r fan (the Church of Teilo on the Brân). The churches of St. Michael (the fighting archangel), popular amongst the Welsh, are generally—next to the Welsh saints—the earliest dedications; sometimes, as in the case of St. Michael Cwmdu, they can be shown to have preceded the coming of the Normans. Their number, again, necessitates some further local description: Llanfihangel Cwmdu (the Archangel of the Black Valley); Llanfihangel Tal y llyn (St. Michael at the Lake head).

The Normans, in church dedication, used saint names from the Roman calendar: St. John, of the Priory, Brecon; St. Mary, both at Brecon and Hay; Llanfair (Church of Mary) at Builth; and St. John, at Tretower; in each case the church being situated close to a Norman castle, or in the town which nestles under its walls. In the case of St. Edmund of Crickhowell the consecrating bishop selected a saint whose name corresponded with his own, and thus preserved his fame to a date when his contemporaries are well nigh forgotten.

#### BRECONSHIRE PARISHES AS GIVEN IN THE "LIBER LLANDAVENSIS."

A more certain method of fixing the date of Welsh parishes is their mention in ancient authorities. The *Liber Llandavensis* bears date A.D. 1132. The early gift to the Church by Welsh princes, as claimed in the book, may sometimes be open to doubt, but it is certain that the parishes must have



been in existence at the date when the book was written, and for so long a time before as to make the statement contained in it impossible of contradiction. The evidence of the antiquity of various parishes is the written form of dedication which, in the cases of Crickhowell and Hay, fixes the exact date, and describes minutely the circumstances under which the parish was formed. Lastly we have a list of incumbents of the various parishes preserved in the archives of St. David's, dating in many cases from the 14th and early part of the 15th centuries. Armed with these authorities, let us consider the early parochial Christianity of Brycheiniog, Builth, and Ystradyw, which three districts constitute the modern county of Brecknock.

To Vaynor, a date of A.D. 874 is ascribed by the late Rev J. E. Jenkins, its rector for many years, who wrote a book on the parish. The first known incumbent was in A.D. 1400. Neither this parish, nor Penderyn, nor Ystradgunlais, are mentioned in Pope Nicholas's Taxation A.D. 1280. Of Penderyn and Ystradgunlais, the first known incumbent was inducted about 1490, and we have been unable to trace any earlier history. Ystradfellte was formerly reckoned a chapelry of Defynock, and it seems not unlikely that that parish may have originally extended to the southern boundary of the present county.

Defynock (Ty Cynog), the house of Cynog. The eldest son of Cynog, who, being illegitimate, and therefore unable to succeed to his father's honours, seems to have become the missionary priest of a district having its centre at Defynock, and including the neighbouring parishes. It is mentioned in the *Taxatio*. The name indicates a pre-Norman origin, perhaps of the sixth century. Merthyr Cynog, the site of the martyrdom of Cynog, is probably part of the district of Cynog, named obviously after his death. It is mentioned in the *Taxatio*, and must therefore have had a separate existence before the year A.D. 1288.

Llanfihangel Nant Bran and Llandeilo'r Fan have been consolidated and seem to have formed part of Merthyr Cynog. Llandeilo'r-fan is mentioned in the *Liber Llandavensis* under the name of Llangwrnact, recognised by the boundaries as already mentioned, and is there stated to have been "restored to God by Awst King of Brecknock." This gives a date A.D. 566, which may indicate the time of formation of both these parishes. The name Llandeilo may have been given at a time when the dioceses of St. David's and Llandaff (Teilo) contested the supremacy of the district. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions the church as burned in warfare about the year 1200 A.D.

Llywel takes its name from a saint, the companion of St. Teilo about A.D. 512. It is mentioned in the *Taxatio*. Giraldus writes of the church being burned in warfare about A.D. 1100; its list of clergy commences in 1403. It is probably a primeval parish. Traianglas is modern; it was made an ecclesiastical district in the year 1890, and the church was built by subscription at the same date.

Of Trallong, the first known incumbent was about 1497. It is mentioned by Gwynfardd writing in the 12th century. Llanspyddid is mentioned in the *Taxatio*. The tithes of the parish were given by Milo Fitzwalter to the Monks of Malvern. Milo died in 1143. This carries Llanspyddid back to the early part of the 12th century; the church being dedicated to St. Cattwg, a Welsh saint, may indicate a pre-Norman foundation. Penpont, also called Bettws Penpont, was a chapelry of Llanspyddid; it was elevated into a parish in the year 1880,

Cantref, the Hundred Houses, is not mentioned in the *Taxatio*. Its list of incumbents commences in A.D. 1400, prior to which there is no information. Llanfrynach, commemorating Fernach, one of the companions of Brychan, and Llanfeigan, named after Mengant, said to be a saint of the Fourth Century, are both mentioned in the *Taxatio*; their names indicate a Welsh or pre-Norman origin.

Llanthetty, named from St. Tetta, a saint of the 8th Century, fixes the earliest date of this parish. It is mentioned in the *Taxatio*.

Of the parishes within the town of Brecon, Llanfaes, dedicated to St. David, is probably of native origin. It is mentioned by the Grey Bard in a line which breathes defiance against the Normans, and it occurs in the *Taxatio*. The dedication of the Priory to St. John indicates its Norman origin. It was built by Bernard Newmarch towards the end of the Eleventh Century. St. Mary's, Brecon, is said to have been erected about a hundred years after the Priory; in the *Taxatio* the parishes occur at Brechon. Battle being a chapelry of the Priory is not mentioned either in the *Taxatio* or in the *Valor* of King Henry VIII. The earliest recorded incumbent is in A.D. 1624.

Llandefaillog (the Church of Maelog, a saint of the Sixth Century). The church is mentioned in the *Taxatio*, and may date from the days of the saint from which it takes its name.

Aberyscir, some think, is mentioned in the *Taxatio* under the name of St. Kenes; the present appellation gives no hint of its antiquity. In the Diocesan Register it occurs as early as 1490.



Of Garthbrenghy, Gwynfardd sings, "Garthbrenghu, Hill of David, void of disgrace." This is earlier than the *Taxatio*. The list of incumbents commences in 1254. It is probably of pre-Norman origin.

Talachddu has a list of incumbents commencing A.D. 1400, the earliest date to which the parish can be traced.

Llanddew was the residence of Giraldus Cambrensis in 1188. The name Dewi gives no further indication of antiquity; and the date of its foundation is lost in the shadow of antiquity.

Llanhamlach is mentioned in the *Taxatio* 1288.

Llansaintfraed has its first recorded incumbent in 1569, beyond which date its history cannot be carried.

Llangorse, with its valuable fishery, was early sought by the Church. Its dedication is given in the *Liber Llandavensis* as about A.D. 566. It is probably the earliest church in the immediate neighbourhood.

Cathedine (Land of the Bondman) was the property of Gurgan, then a political prisoner. This would give a date at the end of the 11th Century. The list of incumbents carries us as far back as A.D. 1400.

Llangasty Tal-y-llyn (the Church of Gastayn, at the lake head). Though the name seems to indicate a dedication in the time of Brychan, Llangasty is not mentioned in the *Taxatio*, the first incumbent mentioned being in 1605.

Llanfihangel Talyllyn is also unmentioned in the *Taxatio*. The first recorded incumbent being in A.D. 1486.

The Register of Llanywern (the Church in the Marsh) commences in 1653. The dates on an old monument carry its history back a few years further to 1615.

Talgarth, dedicated to Gwen, daughter of Brychan; the parish may be of ancient Welsh foundation. There are records of the Parish in the Diocesan Register as early as 1152. Portions of the present church were erected in the 13th Century.

Llanelieu is dedicated to a Welsh saint. It is not, however, mentioned in the *Taxatio*, 1288. The first recorded incumbent bears date 1410.

Glasbury is mentioned in the *Taxatio*, and as its chapelry Aberllynfi is separately mentioned, the mother parish may be of much earlier foundation.

Llanigon, named after Eigen, a daughter of Cradoc ap Bran, is a pre-Norman parish, out of which was carved, about 1115—1135, the parish of Hay.

Hay is of Norman foundation, the church being probably erected to serve the needs of the Norman Castle and the town which sprang up under its walls.

Bronllys; its dedication to St. Mary, instead of to a Welsh saint, indicates its Norman origin. Bronllys Castle was erected in 1080, and the parish may have been formed shortly afterwards.

Llanfilo, dedicated to St. Milburg, a saint of the 7th Century, and mentioned in the *Taxatio*, is probably a pre-Norman foundation.

Llandefaillog Tre'r Graig is a chapelry of Llanfilo.

Llyswen, representing the district formerly called Llan-coed, A.D. 560, ascribed by the *Liber Llandavensis* as the date of its dedication.

Llandefalle, dedicated to the same saint as Llandefaillog, is mentioned in the *Taxatio*, and is probably an ancient Welsh parish.

In the Builth district, Llangammarch, dedicated, it is said, to Cammarch, grandson of Brychan, is the only church "owned" by that family north of the Eppynt Mountains. It is named in the *Taxatio*, and is probably of ancient Welsh foundation. From this parish were separated its curacies, which have been elevated into parishes.

Llandewi Abergwessin, separated from Llangammarch by Order in Council in 1860.

Llanfihangel Abergwessin. These two chapelries were united by Order of Council in 1865.

Llanwrtyd was separated from Llangammarch in 1870.

Llandulas, or Tyr yr Abad (Land of the Abbot), given by Rhys ap Gruffyd to the Abbot of Strata Florida about A.D. 1164; which fact accounts for the name, and probably fixes the date of foundation.



Llanwrthwl, dedicated to a saint called Mwrthwl and by Rees Gwrthwl, of whom nothing is known save that he owns a church in Carmarthenshire. There is some reason for thinking that Llanwrthwl is of more ancient foundation than Llanavan, because Llanlleonfel, lying south of Llanavan, is a chapelry of Llanwrthwl instead of to Llanafan, to which geographically it would belong.

Llysdinam, in the north of Llanavan, is a modern parish joined with Newbridge, and a church built within the borders of Radnor in A.D. 1882.

Llanavan Vawr, founded by Afan, son of Cedig ap Ceredig by Tegwedd, daughter of Tegid Foel of Penllyn, and therefore uterine brother of St. Teilo. This would make Llanafan a foundation of the Sixth Century. Its most distant dependency is Alltmawr. Similar reason to that which has been applied to Llanwrthwl and Llanlleonfel would indicate that Llanafan, more recent than Llanwrthwl, is of earlier date than the parishes intervening between the mother parish and Alltmawr. Llanafan is mentioned in the *Taxatio*.

Round Llanafan are grouped its curacies of Llanvechan and of Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan, neither of which occur in the *Taxatio* or *Valor*.

Llanganten, dedicated to Cannen or Canten, a grandson of Brychan. It is mentioned in the *Taxatio*, and has a date probably of the Sixth Century, certainly previous to 1288.

Llanynis and Maesmynis, the Church of the Island, and Mountain Field, are coupled together in the *Taxatio*; the names give no clue, but they are dedicated to St. David, which leads us to attribute to them a date earlier than the Normans; possibly they may have been founded by the Saint himself.

Llandewi yr Cwm, (St. David in the Vale), adjoins the preceding parishes, and may have originally formed one district with them, as the dedication is the same; it is mentioned in the *Taxatio* in connection with—

Llanfair in Builth (the Church of St. Mary in Builth). St. Mary, being a saint of the Roman Calendar, indicates a Norman origin. The first mention of Builth Castle being in 1209, we may perhaps ascribe to the parish of Llanfair a similar date.

Llangynog, a mountain parish dedicated to St. Cynog, though in the Hundred of Builth, may be the northern extremity of the Cynog group lying west of Brecon. There is nothing but the name to guide a historian; it is not mentioned in the *Taxatio* or the later *Valor*.

Gwenddwr, to whom dedicated is unknown, but the church is now described as “the Church of Saint Dubricius.” The first incumbent is given as in 1571.

Crickadarn is stated to be dedicated to St. Mary, but upon what authority is not known. It was not mentioned in Pope Nicholas’s *Taxatio*.

The last remaining section of the county is the Hundred of Crickhowell. Here the dates of the parishes can be given with greater certainty.

Llangynidr is a primeval parish, dedicated to Cynidr, grandson of Brychan; he was probably its first pastor. It is mentioned in the *Taxatio*, and the list of clergy commences in 1397.

Beaufort, a modern town of ironworkers, was separated from Llangynidr, and elevated into a parish in the year 1846.

Llangattock, dedicated to St. Cattwg, grandson of Brychan, is of the same date as Llangynidr; it was a large parish including Crickhowell, Llangenny, Llanelly, and Brynmawr.

Llanelly, dedicated to Ellyned, grand-daughter of Brychan, formed part of Llangattock, the rector appointing a curate until in 1851 it was elevated into a separate parish.

Brynmawr, a town of mineral workers, dating from the early part of the 19th Century, was in 1875 elevated into an Ecclesiastical parish, carved from the ancient parishes of Llangattock and Llanelly, together with a small portion of the parishes of Aberystroth, formerly in the county of Monmouth.

Llangenny, the abode of Cenau, daughter of Brychan, who is said to have been buried here by her nephews Cattwg and Cynide; has always formed part of the parish of Llangattock. The same argument used to trace the comparative antiquity of Llanavan and the neighbouring parish would hold good here, and we are able to fortify it with the facts surrounding the carving out of Crickhowell.

Crickhowell is a Norman foundation, being carved out of Llangattock in 1303 by the Patron, Lady Sibyl Pauncefoote. The dedication deed is still in existence, and the facts beyond dispute. The church is dedicated to St. Edmund, not a Welsh saint, which, in itself, would tend to prove the origin of the parish, were better evidence not forthcoming.



Cwmdu, Llanbedr, Llancetwin (doubtfully Llangenny) and Patricio, are stated by the *Liber Llandavensis* to have been dedicated by Bishop Herewald. The correctness of the book quoted is sometimes regarded with suspicion, but in this case it is confirmed by the inscription on the ancient font at Patricio, which fixes the date as about 1060.

Tretower, a chapelry formerly attached to the Norman Castle, the dedication of which to St. John further attests its Norman origin; has recently had a district attached to it, within the limits of which stands the Church of Penmyarth, with a consecrated graveyard, the private burying place of the family of Glanusk. It was erected by the late Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart., in 1852.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE LIBER LLANDAVENSIS.

The *Liber Llandavensis*, or Register Book of the Cathedral of Llandaff, called also Llyfr Teilo, (the Book of Teilo), after one of the most eminent of its prelates, is said to have been compiled by Gatfrid, a brother of Urban the last Bishop mentioned therein. Urban died A.D. 1133, and the date of the last document quoted in the book is 1132, which may be taken as the date of the manuscript, the death of Urban being recorded.

Many of the grants recorded were made to St. Dubricius and St. Teilo when they were Archbishops, and exercised their jurisdiction over the greater part of South Wales, which included the Diocese of St. David as well as that of Llandaff. St. Teilo having succeeded St. David as Archbishop, on his death obtained in addition to his jurisdiction over the Diocese of Llandaff, which he held as its Bishop, also that over St. David's. He having removed the Archiepiscopal See to Llandaff, the members of that Church were disposed to consider a portion of the Diocese of St. David's, which was in his jurisdiction when it extended over the two Dioceses, as included in the Diocese of Llandaff, and to claim it accordingly. Claims to this effect seem to have been made by divers Bishops of Llandaff. Bishop Urban preferred his complaint to the Papal See. The *Liber Llandavensis*, compiled by his brother, may be presumed to have been written in support of Urban's claim.

Part of what afterwards became the county of Brecknock. viz., the districts of Builth and Crickhowell and perhaps a portion of the Upper Usk Valley, was included in the territory claimed for Llandaff. The dates of the formation of some of our parishes can be inferred from entries in the book. The antiquity of many place names is demonstrated, with other matters of interest to the County of Brecknock. This information is here given as nearly as possible in the words of the *Liber Llandavensis*.

#### CONVERSION OF WALES TO CHRISTIANITY AND FOUNDATION OF LLANDAFF.

In the year of our Lord 156, Lucius King of the Britons (Lleurwg ap Coel) sent Ambassadors, Elfan and Medwg, to Eleutherius, who was the twelfth Pope of the Apostolic See, imploring that he might be made a Christian. To which request the Pope acceded. The Ambassadors were baptised; Elfan was ordained a Bishop and Medwg a doctor. On their return to Britain, Lucius and the nobles of all Britain received baptism. The Pelagian heresy having afterwards arisen, St. Germanus and Lupus were by the clergy of Gaul sent to Britain. They consecrated, amongst other Bishops, the eminent doctor St. Dubricius over the Britains of the Southern part. He was afterwards elected by the King [Meurig] and the whole district to be Archbishop. The Episcopal See was founded [*circa* A.D. 427] in the district of Llandaff with these boundaries. From Hen-riw-gunna to Rhiw-ffynon, and from Cynlais (a river in the S.W. corner of Brecknock) to the sea, the whole district between the Taff and the Ely (rivers in Brecknock and Glamorgan) with their fish and wears for fisheries (and many other rights and duties). The Diocese to have five hundred Wards, the bay of Severn, Ergyng and Anergyng (Archenfield or Inchenfield, S.W. of the Wye in Herefordshire), from Mochros on the Wye (Moccas in Herefordshire—Moch-rhos, pigs moor) to the Island of Terthi (probably the Barry Island). Mochros, on the banks of the Wye, where Dubricius first dwelt, was by grant of King Meurig given to the Church of Llandaff for ever.

Dubricius migrated to the Lord 612, and was succeeded in the Bishopric of Llandaff by his pupil Teilo. The Holy Church which had been dispersed for a long time was exalted by the coming of Teilo, to whom came those who had been disciples of St. Dubricius, namely Gurmalt Llywel and many others. [Gurmalt was patron saint of a church called in a grant to the Bishopric of Llandaff, Llan-gurnact: its situation corresponds with Llandilo'r fân, Brecknockshire. Llywel was the saint of Llywel, a church in the western part of Brecknock.]

Oudoceus, the nephew of St. Teilo, succeeded him at Llandaff, being consecrated at Canterbury. For some time he held in peace the whole diocese from Mochros to the island Teithi, until King Cadwgan, by the instigation of the Devil, wounded one of the clergy. Thus a spark of mischief arising, the King was desirous to expel the holy man from his country beyond the Towy. From that time the diocese remained divided into two kingdoms, that of Meurig on one side and of Cadwgan on



the other. After a time Cadwgan repented of what he had done and restored the lands to the church of Llandaff. In his time the Saxons plundered the diocese from Mochros as far as the river Dore and as far as Gurmwy [the river Worm in Herefordshire] and to the mouth of Taratyr at the river Wye [Taratyr is supposed to be a brook dividing Holm Lacy from Dinedor, entering the Wye about five miles below Hereford. By this the diocese seems to have lost territory in Herefordshire.] Afterwards this is its division (? boundary). From the estuary of the Tywi (Towy) to the influx of Piscotuc into Tywi (five miles west of Llanwrtyd), from the Piscotuc to the three alders of Buell [Builth], from the three alders of Buell upwards along the Castell Teirtut [a boundary which we fail to identify], that is Cantref Bychan, Cantref Selyff, and Buell. From Castell Teirtut upwards along to Doulwyn Helig, from Doulwyn Helig to the source of the Uysc [Usk], to the Black Mountain, along the Black Mountain to the source of the Twrch [which river forms the western boundary of Brecknock]; along the Twrch downwards to the Tawy, along the Tawy to the Cynlais to its source; from the source of the Cynlais to Allungwernen; from Allungwernen to the source of the Pewrdin [which rivulet forms part of the southern boundary of Brecknock]; from the source of the Pewrdin to where it falls into the Ned. The Ned upwards to the Mellton [Mellte], along the Mellton upwards to the Hepstue [Hepste]; the Hepston upwards to the Gwyragon, the Gwyragon to its source from its source to Gauanhawe, from Gauanhawe to Deri Emreis, from Deri Emreis to Cecin Clysty, along Cenin Clysty to the source of Fruit y guidon, along it to the Taf mawr [the river Taff], the Taf mawr downwards to Cymmar, from Cymmar upwards along Taf Bechan [the lesser Taff], along Taf Bechan to Rhyd y Cambren, from Rhyd y Cambren to Hal du, from Hal du to the long Cemyn to the brook Crafnant [now the Crownon in Llangynidr], along the Crafnant to the Crafnel [Carfenell] until it falls into the Uysc. Through the Uysc to Cily [? Chilston], to Allt Lwyd [now the Allt] above Bychlit [Buckland], to Cecynpynmarch to Guomoyd, to Rhyd nant, to Dinmarchythan, to Olygabr, to Bron Cater [the Gader mountain] upwards to the source of Gwerinon [Grwyne fawr], to the top of Bwch y Vyncul [Bwlch y Fingal, a pass at the head of the Llanthony valley], to the Brydell, to the Hal Ruma, to Maeny Bardd [on N.W. slope of the Black Mountains], in the spring of Nant y bardd [rising on Cusop Hill, Herefordshire]. Thence the boundary followed Nant y bardd to the Dowl to the influx of the Worm, thence to Cair rein, to the Taratyr, to the Wye, and down the Wye, to the Severn.

It is scarcely possible to identify all the places named in the boundary claimed by Llandaff. The district in dispute included the Builth Valley and that of Crickhowell; the valley of Brecheiniog was excluded.

#### GRANTS TO CHURCHES IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK.

Llan cors [Llangorse]. Know all Christians that Awst King of Brecknock and his sons Eliud and Rhiwallon have given Llan cors to Bishop Oudoceus and all his successors in the church of Llandaff, with its fish and its fishery for eels, and with all its territory in the form of an endowment for ever [Circa A.D. 566].

Awst and his sons also restored to God and St. Teilo and all the Bishops of Llandaff in perpetual succession, Llangwmal [Llandeilo'r fân neighbourhood] which formerly belonged to Dubricius. Its boundary is the source of the Ethrin [? modern Eithrin], along it to the ridge of Carn Erchan, from Carn Erchan to the old road, along the road to the gate of the hurdle door, along the ridge to the source of the brook Dincant, along the brook to where it falls into the Cilieni, along Cilieni downwards as far as the influx of Nant Iren, along it as far as the Knoll of Hisberun, along the ridge of the mountain to the shaft of the cross of Gwerion, downwards by the three boundaries to the brook Cenon, along the brook Cenon as far as Cilieni to the influx of Post du, along the Post du to the Clontac, along Clontac to its source, to the swamp, across the mountain upwards to Fryn buccilid [the shepherd's hill], along the hill to the source of the Ethrin where it began.

The boundaries are quoted here at length because it is the brook Cilieni and other streams named which enables us to identify the districts alluded to. The gift of this district to the church of Teilo probably affords the reason for the more modern name of Llandeilo.

Llancoit (doubtfully Llangoed, no local names of identification being given).—King Iddon knowing himself to be of perishable nature, and mindful of his evil deeds, became obedient to the commands of God. Therefore on a certain day, when he was among his princes, he said I sacrifice to God, St. Teilo, and to the present Bishop Arwystyl and all his successors in the church of Llandaff, Llann Coit with three uncias of land. [Arwystyl was a disciple of St. Dubricius; he was a bishop in the latter part of the reign of King Iddon, and was probably stationed in the north of Brecknock, circa A.D. 570.]

Llanfihangel Tref Cerian in Brecknock.—Tewdwr son of Rhun, and Elgystel son of Awst King of Brecknock, swore by the most holy things, and in the presence of Bishop Gwrwan and his clergy,



that neither should plot against the other, and that if one should deal treacherously with the other, he should quietly give up his inheritance and go abroad. After these things the devil caused King Tewdwr to kill Elgystyl, which coming to the hearing of Bishop Gwrwan he excommunicated the murderer. King Tewdwr seeing that he could not endure the malediction sought pardon with a penitent heart, and the yoke of penance of suitable degree being placed upon him he was allowed to remain in his kingdom on his making amends for the crime by almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. On such remission King Tewdwr granted to God and Gwrwan and to his successors in the church of Llandaff, Llanfihangel Tref Cerian. Its boundary is from the highway which is on the south by the thorn bush, from thence as far as the brook Rhiangoll which is on the north, then along the brook towards the east, as far as the fountain Cenian, afterwards from the fountain Cenian along the dry valley which leads upwards to the aforesaid highway which is on the south.

The parish Tref Cerian is identified with Cwmdy by the brook Rhiangoll, still bearing the same name, which flows through the parish. On the south of Cwmdy parish, adjoining Crickhowell, is still a little wood called "Drain," the thorn bush.

Gwrwan, bishop, was probably stationed at Ystradyw, the vale of Crickhowell. This parish was again granted to Llandaff by Tewdwr son of Eliued King of Brecknock (*circa* A.D. 872) in penance for having sent off the bishop from the monastery of Llancorffs and having taken away from him his banquet by force and violence.

In the year 1022 Joseph was consecrated Bishop of Llandaff by the Metropolitan at Canterbury.

Rhydduch son of Jestin King of All Wales, a pacific and mild man, granted to Llandaff and to Joseph, its bishop, all former rights. And the Church of Llandaff had possession of all the under-mentioned, in quiet and tranquil peace in the time when Rhydduch was King of All Wales [of thirty lordships by name in Carmarthen and Pembroke also], in Brecknock Llangurvaet mainawr [Llandeilo'r tân] in Cantref Selim [Selyf], Llangoed in Cantref Talacharn [Talgarth], Llangors, Llanfihangel meibion gratlawn [supposed to be Cwmdy], Llan y ddewdeg Seint [adjoining Llangorse], also in Elfael [now part of Radnor], Llanfeilig, and Llowes, with Llandeilo y Cilian in the valley of the Bachawg [now Llandeilo graban].

When King William conquered England, Bishop Herwald held the bishopric of the Church of Llandaff from the mouth of the Wye to the river Towy. King Caradoc reigned in Ystradyw [Crickhowell], Gwent Uchcoed, and Gwynllwg, and Rhydderch in Ewyas and Gwent Iscoed, which before-named kings were subject to King William and died in his time. Whose aforesaid territories, with the district of Ergyng, Bishop Herwald held in episcopal subjection.

In Ystradyw [Crickhowell] Herwald consecrated the Church of St. Michael (Cwmdy) and the Church of Laun Cetguin and Llann Petyr (Llanbedr) and Merthyr Issui (Patri-icio) and committed the churches to Madweith, which churches Herwald held in episcopal subjection in the time of King William and Earl William and Walter de Lacy. [An inscription on the ancient font of Patricio fixes the date with great accuracy. Lann Cetguin may perhaps have been Llangenny, as that chapelry adjoins the parishes named.] Bishop Herwald died 1104. Urban, archdeacon, was consecrated Bishop in 1108. He rebuilt the Cathedral and endeavoured to recover territory of which he thought the see of Llandaff had been deprived. On his fourth journey to Rome on the business he died abroad in 1133.

#### REQUISITION OF BISHOP URBAN TO POPE CALIXTUS II.

"From the time of the ancient fathers, as the cheirograph of our patron St. Teilo does testify, the Church [of Llandaff] was always the mistress of all other churches in Wales, until at length through seditions and many injuries from wars, and my predecessor Herwald having become aged, it began to decline, and to be annihilated by the cruelty of the natives and the invasion of the Normans. And the church is not only impoverished by having its territories taken from it, but also by being deprived of its tithes by the robbery of the laity and of the monks, and by the great invasion of the diocese by our brethren the Bishops of Hereford and St. David's. Now I beseech you that you will, as far as you are able, succour our church . . . ."

The case was heard A.D. 1119 at the Council of Rheims. Pope Calixtus II. replied by favourable bulls addressed to the Bishop Urban, King Henry I., and to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He also addressed certain local men of standing—Walter third son of Richard Fitzgilbert, who had licence from King Henry I. to enjoy "what he could conquer" in Wales; Bernard de Newmarch who, acting on a similar permission, had won of Brecknock three cantrefs out of four; and others: "The complaint of your mother the Church of Llandaff has come to us, because it is plundered of its property by you, and reduced to almost nothing, wherefore we have sent these letters to you commanding that you restore without delay the lands and other property which you have wickedly taken



away from the said church. For it is unjust that sons should tear their mother in pieces and steal the property of her whom they ought particularly to defend and assist with their own substance.— Given at Soissons Oct. 16, 1119.”

Pope Calixtus II. died Dec. 13, 1124. He was succeeded by Honorius II. before whom the suit was continued. Bulls on the subject were addressed to Bishop Urban, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to the King. The following to the clergy and laity of Ergyng is sufficient to show the state of affairs: “Honorius to the clergy and laity resident throughout the parishes of Ergyng Ystradyw (Crickhowell), Gower, Kidwelly, and Cantref Bychan, health and apostolic benediction. Our brother Urban bishop of Llandaff invited Bernard bishop of St. David’s and Richard bishop of Hereford, that they should answer respecting the aforesaid churches, but *they neither came nor sent persons to answer for them*. We have therefore fixed the middle of next Lent that then each party being present may obtain what the reason of justice will dictate. Given at the Lateran April 12, 1128.”

Dated a week later (19 April, 1128) is a bull from Pope Honorius to Milo of Gloucester and other noble persons throughout the diocese of Llandaff. The Pope again writes that they have offended in robbing the church, and adds “What is infamous when ye come to the thresholds of the saints ye blush not to rob and molest and on the market days take away the property of those who are coming or returning and kill some of them in a cruel manner.”

On April 4, 1129, Honorius wrote further to Bishop Urban stating again that the Bishops of Hereford and St. David’s had failed to appear before him: “Thou, however, Brother Urban in the appointed term didst present thyself in our sight ready with witnesses, two of whom swore that this portion respecting which the lawsuit had been instituted, that is Gower (in Glamorgan), Kidwelly, Cantrebychan (in Carmarthen), Ystradyw (Crickhowell), and Ergyng was contained within the bounds of the diocese of Llandaff, that is between the rivers Towy and Wye, we therefore have determined that the aforesaid districts shall be held and possessed by thee and successors for ever.”

An accompanying order, bearing date the following day, adds: “If any ecclesiastical or secular person act rashly against the instrument and being admonished two or three times will not make amends, may be deprived of the dignity of his power and honour, and being guilty know that he is subject to divine judgement, and be estranged from the most sacred body and blood of God, and in the last judgement be condemned to severe punishment.” This is most strongly worded, even for a Pope. Milo of Gloucester, son of Walter, Constable of England, to whom the letter was addressed, had married Sybil, daughter of Bernard Newmarch, and had succeeded to the Lordship of Brecknock in right of his wife.

A.D. 1128, Urban, bishop of Llandaff, went to Rome, due notice having been given to the Bishops of Hereford and St. David’s. His complaint having been heard by the Pope Honorius, he returned seized of the districts of Gower, Kidwelly, Cantrebychan, and Ergyng (Ystradyw not mentioned). In the following year (1129), being summoned by Honorius, Urban again went to Rome at mid Lent, with his charters and ancient documents, when the five districts in dispute were adjudged to him.

On the 27th April, 1129, Honorius again wrote to Urban: “After thy departure from us Bernard, bishop of St. David’s, came to our presence with letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and from the King, in which was contained the dispute formerly agitated between thee and his predecessor, respecting diocesan boundaries. He represented that it had been decided, and produced witnesses. Accordingly we were very much surprized, and that we should know the truth more fully we have appointed the next feast of St. Luke, in the year to come, to be the term between thee and the aforesaid Bishop Bernard.”

Honorius II. died February 14, 1130, and was succeeded by Innocent II. Bull of Innocent II. to Bernard, Bishop of St. David’s: “Our venerable brother Urban Bishop of Llandaff came twice with great fatigue to the Apostolic See. And afterwards he was summoned by our predecessor that on the next Festival of St. Luke he should come to the Apostolic See to answer thee respecting the diocesan boundaries, but as he by letters signified that he was weighed down by sickness, old age, and poverty, and asserted that he was not able to come, we have granted him an indulgence for not coming to Rome for three years” (1130).

On the 11th May, 1131, the Pope again wrote to Bishop Urban, “that on the next Festival of St. Luke thou shalt, setting everything aside, appear before us to answer our Brother, Bishop Bernard.”

The Pope afterwards summoned the Bishops to Rheims: “It is better that the dispute shall be settled in the Council at Rheims without much fatigue than at Rome with great labour and expense.”



The Bishop of Llandaff was, however, detained by illness, and the Pope referred the matter to England to be decided by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Rouen (21st December, 1131).

DEATH OF URBAN, BISHOP OF LLANDAFF.

“Innocent, Bishop, Servant of God, to our Venerable Brother Urban, Bishop of Llandaff, health and Apostolic benediction; as we have commanded thee by other writings, so to thy fraternity . . .” The sentence was never finished, possibly Galfred heard of the death of his brother Urban, troubled himself no further about the matter, but set down his pen at once.

Bishop Godwin informs us that the mandates of the Popes respecting the restoration of the districts of Llandaff were not obeyed in consequence of the death of Bishop Urban, who died in his way to Rome, on the prosecution of the business in the year 1133.

Thenceforward Ystradyw was united civilly with the centre of Brecknock, and shared the ecclesiastical fortunes of that district. It thus became an undoubted part of the Diocese of St. David's, whatever it may have been before.

THE TAXATIO OF ST. NICHOLAS.

In the year 1288 Pope Nicholas the Fourth granted the tenths (of the emoluments of the Church) to King Edward the First, for six years, towards defraying the expense of an expedition to the Holy Land, and that they might be collected to their full value, the Taxatio or Assessment basis, was began in that year and finished as to the Province of Canterbury in 1291. It is the earliest list of the parishes then in existence, and furnishes a true test of antiquity. The following is an extract from the Records in the British Museum so far as refers to the county of Brecknock.—

DEANERY OF BRECON.

Parish as recorded.	Modern name.	Annual Value.	Parish as recorded.	Modern name.	Annual Value.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Haya .....	Hay .....	14 0 0	Lande Vayloc .....	Llandefaelog fach ....	8 0 0
Llaneygan .....	Llanigon .....	10 0 0	Lanmaes .....	Llanfaes .....	12 0 0
Glasbur .....	Glasbury .....	20 0 0	Landon ..	Llanddew .....	8 0 0
Aberleveney .....	Aberllynfi .....	4 6 8	Lanhamelagh .....	Llanhamlach .....	4 6 8
Talgarth .....	Talgarth .....	18 0 0	Brechon .....	Brecon .....	20 0 0
Mara .....	Llangorse .....	8 0 0	Landespetit .....	Llanspyddid.....	6 0 0
Brentles .....	Bronllys .....	13 6 8	Eglus cyll.....	Llangynidr .....	4 6 8
Landevathlin .....	Llandefalle .....	13 6 8	Karpngy .....	Garthbrengy .....	3 6 8
Llanvilieu .....	Llanfillo .....	13 6 8	DEANERY OF BUELLT.		
Stratden .....	Cwmdu .....	20 0 0	Llanavan .....	Llanavan fawr .....	13 6 8
Lanpetr .....	Llanbedr .....	16 3 4	Langamaith .....	Llangammarch .....	13 6 8
Lancadoc .....	Llangattock .....	16 0 0	Llanuchul .....	Llanwrthwl .....	5 6 8
Llandetten .....	Llanthetty .....	4 6 8	Maesmences & Lan ..	Maesmynis & Llanynis	5 0 0
Sco. Mengano .....	Llanfigan .....	5 6 8	Landewy com and	Llandewi'cum and	
Sco. Kened .....	? Aberyscir .....	5 6 8	Lanveyr .....	Llanfair.....	8 0 0
Devenac .....	Defynock .....	17 6 8	Langanten .....	Llanganten .....	4 6 8
Lanbernach .....	Llanfrynach .....	4 6 8	PRIORY.		
Luel .....	Llywell .....	14 0 0	Of Brecon .....	.....	25 19 4
Meithir .....	Merthyr Cynog .....	30 0 0			
Fraetai .....	? Talachddu .....	5 6 8			

The above list may not be complete. There may have been chapelries, or even parishes that may have escaped notice. Of all those enumerated it can, however, be stated with certainty that they are all at least as early as the 13th century.





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HISTORY  
OF  
BRECKNOCKSHIRE.













PRIORY CHURCH AT BRECON IN 1908

*(From a Photograph by the Rev. H. Church Jones, M.A.).*



# A HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK.

CONTAINING THE CHOROGRAPHY, GENERAL HISTORY, RELIGION, LAWS, CUSTOMS, MANNERS, LANGUAGE, SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE, ANTIQUITIES, SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS AND INSCRIPTIONS, NATURAL CURIOSITIES, VARIATIONS OF THE SOIL, STRATIFICATION, MINERALOGY, LIST OF RARE AND OTHER PLANTS AND BIRDS, PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY, NAMES AND BIOGRAPHIES OF SHERIFFS AND MAYORS OF BRECKNOCK, ALSO THE GENEALOGIES AND ARMS OF THE PRINCIPAL FAMILIES PROPERLY COLOURED AND EMBLAZONED, TOGETHER WITH THE HISTORY OF EVERY PARISH, AND THE NAMES OF THE PATRONS AND INCUMBENTS OF ALL LIVINGS.

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By THEOPHILUS JONES,

Deputy Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Brecon.

Enlarged by the notes collected

By SIR JOSEPH RUSSELL BAILEY, BART., FIRST BARON GLANUSK

(Lord Lieutenant of Brecknockshire).

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*ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS, PORTRAITS, AND MAPS.*

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VOLUME TWO.

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BRECKNOCK :

PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY BLISSETT, DAVIES & Co., 14 BRIDGE STREET.

1909.







# THE HISTORY OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

## VOLUME II.—CHAPTER I.

Laws of Dyfnwal Moel-mûd,<sup>^</sup>—Hywel Dda,—the Lords Marchers,—the English Statutes,—Acts and Ordinances relative to Wales.

OUR first British legislator is placed so far back in the shade of antiquity, that his features are scarcely discernible, and his laws are not much better known than his character or his person. He lived, it is said, about four hundred years before Christ, and was called Dyfnwal moel-mûd, or rather Dyfnwal mawl mâd<sup>1</sup> meaning Dyfnwal the famous or praiseworthy, whose name has been latinized into Dunwallus Molnutius; he died about the year 430 before Christ, according to George Owen Harry, and of his code only two mutilated extracts remain; one of them relates to the admeasurement of land, and is quoted in the laws of Hywel Dda and another by Rowland, which asserts the sovereignty of the imperial crown of London over the Kings of Wales, Scotland, and Cornwall. The laws of Dyfnwal continued to be obeyed, as far at least as the savage temper of the times respected any laws, until the coming of the Romans, when the system of jurisprudence which prevailed among the conquerors, became that of their subjects while they remained among them. Upon their departure, the Britons of Wales seem again to have recurred to their ancient code, on which Hywel Dda King of Wales, about the year 940 of the Christian era, built his superstructure, availing himself in the progress of his work of the systems of his predecessors, and the advice and assistance of the learned of his time. Though not a Breconshire man, he had one or two palaces in this county. Llyswen upon the Wye, where his grandfather, Roderick the Great, appointed the princes of Powys and Cardigan to meet to settle and adjust disputes, if such should arise between them, was one of Hywel's residences; and Caerau in Llangammarch near the western confines of the hundred of Builth was probably another.

The laws and ordinances of this prince, as Barrington observes in his preface to his *Observations on the Antient Statutes*, are the most regular of any extant, and have been wonderfully preserved considering their antiquity; but though there are many provisions in them dictated by wisdom and sound policy, there are some which it is impossible to peruse without a smile, and others which should not be passed over without censure. It would be foreign to our purpose to recapitulate all those laws which relate to the King's palace; among them is mentioned the right of the King's falconer<sup>2</sup> to his majesty's attendance, and the obligation of the master to hold his gamekeeper's stirrup when he had killed a crane, and the claim of the judge of the palace to the cushion for his night's repose, on which royalty sat by day, is admitted. Whether in the one case the merit of the falconer was equal to the high honour of the reward, or whether in the other, his majesty's body was supposed to act as a conductor from his head, and to communicate to the judge's by means of the pillow, the attributes of justice and mercy cannot now be ascertained, and therefore these and many other unaccountable and equally whimsical customs may as well be forgotten; but it is impossible to avoid reprobating here many of the *laws relative of women*. Making the proper allowances for the unenlightened times in which they were enacted, and the almost savage disposition of the inhabitants of those days, whoever is compelled or led by curiosity to peruse them, cannot avoid exclaiming against them as generally disgraceful, frequently immodest, and sometimes calculated instead of repressing, to encourage the injuries they seem to be desirous to punish or prevent.

### REVIEW OF HYWEL DDA'S CODE.

A short review of the leading features of this code, by which the inhabitants of Brecknockshire,

<sup>1</sup> The Cambro British authors as well as Leland and Gildas assert, that Alfred borrowed many of his laws from those of Dyfnwal, though some English historians have doubted even of his existence: Wotton seems to think that his laws are a forgery, but while they are quoted in the very code he is translating, at a time when it is clear from that circumstance his name and memory remained, and when of course if any doubts of their authenticity had prevailed, the legislator Hywel would neither have mentioned or adopted them, there is no room left for scepticism on the subject.

<sup>2</sup> There are some instances in England, as late as 1625, of extraordinary allowances and gratuities to royal gamekeepers: in that year Andrew Pitcairne, esq., was allowed £30 per month, and 10s. a day for the provisions of pigeons, hens, and other diet for the king's hawks, a salary equal to that of keeper of the seals. (*Fœdera*, tom. 18). In the same year the king's barber had £100; a surgeon and his wife £150 during their lives; the king's carver £150 per annum; his physician £230, and the professor of Hebrew in Oxford only £40 per annum.



in common with those of the principality of Wales, were governed for several centuries, will, it is hoped, not be deemed impertinent or irrelevant here. The distinguishing and general characteristic of this system was the making satisfaction in money, cattle, or other effects, for *all* offences and crimes, murder not excepted; for injuries to the person or privation of property to the party complaining of the grievance; for murder, to the relations of the deceased, and in this latter case, much pains were taken and labour employed under various circumstances and in different degrees of affinity, to ascertain who were entitled to receive this compensation, which was more or less in proportion to the rank the deceased held in the community; but even on this serious subject there were now and then distinctions, to us apparently ludicrous and certainly not to be accounted for. Several offences, which in the reign of Henry the Eighth would have been called high treason and punishable with death, by the laws of Hywel, were commuted for by fine: "the learned in the laws (says one of these ordinances) have determined that for committing adultery with the king's consort, killing his ambassadors or violating his protection, the offender shall forfeit to his Majesty a golden cup, having a cover to it, *as broad as his face*, as thick as the thumb of a ploughman who has been nine years in that employ; a silver rod of the same height as the King and as thick as his thumb, a hundred cows for every cantreff which the offender possessed, and a white bull<sup>1</sup> with red ears for every hundred cows, but if the cows are of a dark colour, then a black bull with every hundred. For the murder of the King of North Wales this fine shall be tripled," and the lives of the Princes of Powys and South Wales were, in all probability, protected in a similar manner, though it is not so stated in this chapter. Their laws, with respect to bail,<sup>2</sup> from which much has been borrowed by the English, and their remedies for the recovery of lands are tedious, numerous, and unintelligible.

#### LAWS AS TO WOMEN.

The statute of Rhuddlan (12th Ed. I.) recites that women were not then dowable by the laws of Wales, but though they were not entitled to dower of the lands of the husband, they possessed a proportion of his effects, and that not only upon his death, but immediately upon the marriage, and they had a separate control, and the sole disposal of their property, even during the life of the husband; nay, so fully was this right established, that the Welsh married ladies could not be prevailed upon to part with it for near two centuries after the English laws were introduced, as several of the wills of testators in Breconshire from 1500 to 1760 recapitulate and acknowledge debts due from and to married women, and in others the husband admits that a sum or sums is due to *his wife*, by mortgage, bond, note, etc. Yet still the British wives were in many cases in ancient times very hardly used, and their countrywomen of this day, though they may smile, and perhaps *some* of them tacitly approve of the causes for which it was lawful to separate from a husband,<sup>3</sup> will all of them exclaim against the inequality of the crimes for which they might be chastised by him.

#### PECULIARITIES OF THE LAWS.

Much pains are taken in these laws to describe what articles of household furniture and other effects shall go with the husband and what with the wife in case of separation, and a laborious and impracticable attempt is made to fix a specific value upon every species of property, in case it should be lost, stolen or injured: for instance, the King's blanket (the effeminate luxury of sheets was then unknown), was worth one hundred and twenty pence, the Queen's flesh-fork twenty-four pence, the King's chess-board one hundred and twenty pence, a bucket one penny, a pail to wash the feet in one penny, a house-dog, even though he was the King's, only fourpence, while a shepherd's dog was equal in value to an ox, if it could be proved by his owner and neighbours upon oath that *he was accustomed to precede the cattle to the field in the morning, and bring them home at night*; the purloining, destroying or injuring of any of these effects or animals was punished in general by mulct, in the same manner, though in a lighter degree, with the death of the King. The legislators have proceeded to recapitulate with a tedious minuteness and apparently with a

<sup>1</sup> There was a breed of this kind and colour upon the banks of the Towy in Carmarthenshire which were particularly valuable, (Wotton). Richard's *Welsh dictionary* sub. verb. Ysgafrllynnig. Bingley in his *Animal Biography* says, that *all* wild cattle are of this colour, and this fine being laid upon the *whole* of Wales seems to prove the truth of his assertion.

<sup>2</sup> Upon this law of Bail we have a remark rather whimsically introduced, "if a surety or one who has become bail die leaving a son, that son shall be bound by his father's act. There are those who say that he may upon his father's grave lawfully deny his having been surety, but the law is otherwise, for the *wise* say that

the laws of this world are of no effect either in heaven or hell, but only reach the living. The reason is this, men in the transactions of this life may be bound by human laws, but the angels and devils are subject to no law but to the power and will of God." This denying upon the grave alludes to a law by which a creditor, charging a dead person with being surety to him, was to go with six persons to swear to that fact on his grave if it could be found.

<sup>3</sup> *Foul breath* was one of the causes for which a woman might separate from her husband, at the same time he might lawfully chastise her either for *reflecting upon his beard*, endeavouring to procure his death, or committing adultery.



peculiar whimsicality, the remedies in case some of these animals did any mischief to the property of those to whom they did not belong, and it should sometimes seem as if they meant to punish the fowl or beast himself, and endeavoured to make him sensible of his crime; as when they enacted that if geese were found trespassing in corn, it was lawful to *kill* them with a stick as long as from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger; if in a barn or rick-yard, to squeeze them to death with a forked stick placed on their necks; if a cock trespassed, one of his spurs might be cut off; if a calf<sup>1</sup> in corn, he might be kept a whole day from sucking, and then liberated, and if a hen was caught filching, she might be detained till she laid an egg. In all these remedies, as well as the recital of the damages to be paid when a cat is found mousing in a flax-plat, there is something extremely ludicrous and unaccountable at this distance of time.

Yet in one instance their law was superior to that of England; according to the latter, if beasts were impounded, which have been taken trespassing, they can only be liberated, if a surly neighbour refuses to accept of amends, by what is termed a *replevin*; by Hywel's code it was provided that if a man impounded a beast and amends were tendered and refused and the beast died, the taker was obliged to pay the value of it to the owner, and if an animal was impounded and he was permitted to graze by the person who impounded him, the taker did not, says one of these ordinances, lose his right to receive satisfaction because he had behaved kinder than the law required.

## PRACTICE IN THE COURTS.

With respect to the administration of justice as it is described and explained in this code, there are, among a heap of trash, many wholesoms rules, and much good sense. The judges received *customary and specific fees* from both parties in all causes, but these were equal and well known, and in their history we never hear of any instances of corruption or accusations against their magistrates for receiving bribes. These expounders and ministers of the laws were required to be men of experience, and at least twenty-five years of age when appointed and to have a beard, for say the laws, "it is not meet to see a young man sitting in judgment upon the aged." The modes of administering oaths were different in different cases, as was the credit given to witnesses, which varied according to their numbers, their rank in life, their character in their neighbourhood, their relative situations, or the mode by which they obtained their knowledge of the facts to which they deposed. The general manner of administering an oath was by laying the right hand on the altar, and swearing by God and the relics placed thereon: in contracts and questions as to buying and selling, they gave to each other their right hand and plighted their faith, or swore by the faith of a Christian. This mode of asservation was called *Briduw*; a word now become obsolete, and the etymology of which is not understood: to testify a falsehood in this latter manner was accounted nearly, if not equally, criminal with perjury upon the altar. In most cases two witnesses were required, as by the Roman or Canon law. In questions as to land, the witness's testimony was either reduced into writing and then read to him, as now practised in depositions in chancery, or else the substance was taken down and repeated by the advocates to the Court and the witnesses then for the first time asked, if what was said was true, for this, says one of these ordinances, is the oath of a *Ceidwad* (or tenant) that "all which the advocate *has put it into his head* to swear is true in every particular: this is curiously worded, but the meaning, from the sentences following, is that the testimony read or repeated to the witness as having been given by him, or coming out of his mouth, is true, etc.

These witnesses, though of the same rank, were of different descriptions, and to the testimony of some of them more credit was attached than to others, though their characters were equally respectable. The general name for a witness was *Tyst*, or *Tysd*, an old Armoric word which will probably be derived from the Latin *testis*. In these laws, witnesses were again divided into *Ceidwad* or *Gwarcheidwad*, *Gwybyddiad* and *Arwaesaf*. The former is translated *Custos* by Wotton, and explained to be the tenant or possessor of the lands in dispute, whose evidence upon this subject could neither be rejected or discredited; it was therefore regarded as of the highest import and considered as most sacred. The next in point of respect or attention was the *Gwybyddiad*, *testis conscius*, or witness who swore to a fact which he saw, and the third was called *Arwaesaf*, meaning not only a person who proved or warranted a beast or other personal chattel, but, as Wotton says, the warranty itself.

## THE DATES OF COURTS.

In the Welsh Courts of Justice there were only two terms; these lasted from November to February, and from May to August, to avoid interference with the ploughing and sowing season and the harvest. In actions concerning lands, commenced on the 9th of November, the claimant was

<sup>1</sup> This punishment of the animal was probably taken from the code of *Dyfnwal Moel-mûd*, when the druidical doctrine of the transmigration of souls was the faith of Britain.



entitled to judgment or sentence on the 9th of May following, and if then postponed he had a right to apply to the King, who compelled the Court to be open to him on any day he desired. - Having cursorily mentioned disputes about land, it should be here observed that the tenure by which they were universally held in old times was called Gavelkind; by this was meant an equal partition of the lands of the parents among *all* their male children. It is specially provided by these laws that the inheritance shall be adjudged in equal proportions to every son, and it is also decreed that no crime or offence of the father shall prejudice his issue, or prevent their succession to the inheritance of his property: "Cyfraith Hywel a'i barn i'r mab ieuaf megis i'r hynaf, ac a farn na ddoter pechawd y tâd nai ei anghyfraith yn erbyn y mâb am dref ei dâd," so that the cruel, though perhaps politic consequences of forfeiture and corruption of blood, were not known to the Welsh. The real origin and definition of the term *Gavelkind*, and whether it ought to be sought for in the British or Saxon annals, is a question that has been variously agitated and determined by etymologists. Many learned authorities are ranged on both sides. Sir Henry Spellman, assuming it to be Saxon, affirms that it originally came from Germany; he thus describes the tenure, "*Qua omnes filii ex æquis portionibus patris adeunt hæreditatem*," and from Tacitus proves it to be the *vetus mos Germanorum*. Lambard compounds it from three Saxon words "Zipeal cyn, i.e., give to all the kindred"; this certainly is not agreeable to the nature of that tenure which gives only to the males. Blount derives it from Zafel, census, tributum, and cyno, natura, genus; and Verstegan, like Swift, seriously tells us that it is merely a corruption of "give all kind," meaning give to every child his part or share. Mr. Somner adheres to the Saxon etymology, and says, that in the Irish and Welsh vocabularies the word is sought for in vain; from thence he concludes that it was peculiar to the men of Kent, though in after times it was imitated by others.

#### THE LAW OF GAFÆL-KIND.

On the other hand, Dr. Powel very properly observes that gafael is a British term signifying a holding, because every one of the sons did hold some part of his father's lands, as his lawful son and successor, but it is strange that he passes by the last syllable *kind*, as if it were a mere expletive or termination, which he writes in a common character, while capitals distinguish its fore-runner GAFÆL. Mr. Sylas Taylor in his very ingenious treatise on Gavelkind enters more fully into the merits of the case, and is we believe esteemed one of the best expositors upon the nature of the tenure; he observes that the word gafael (according to English pronunciation Gavel) is derived from the British verb gafaelu, which Dr. Davies renders, tenere, præhendere, and is still a word in common use among the Welsh in their ordinary discourse, as cymmerwch gafael, take hold, gafael swyddog is an officer of arrest, gefail from the same verb is a pair of tongs, or smith's vice. There is a parish in Monmouthshire adjoining to Urchenfield, evidently deriving its name from this custom, Llangattwg Meibion (now pronounced Fibon or Vibon) Avel, St. Cadocus de tenura filiorum; Mr. Taylor supposes the latter syllable to be from Cenedl, which signifies a clan or family, and in this he is supported by Wotton and his assistant Moses Williams. Lastly, Dr. Whitaker in his *History of Manchester* supposes it to be of Irish origin, "as the Irish (says he) is much nearer than the Welsh to the old Celtic, so it furnishes the very word kinead or kind; whence it was naturally denominated among the Britons, gafael kinead or the family estate." Mr. Edward Llwyd in his Welsh dictionary certainly gives the word Cine a family, Cineadh, a nation, descent, etc., and Cinid, common or peculiar to a family, from whence we are to look for the origin of the English word kin and kindred. Llwyd also has an Irish verb *Gabham* to take, receive, etc., and *Gabhallas*, a taking, which of course are of the same family as gafaelu and gafael.

It has already been observed that gavelkind implied an equal distribution of property among the male children of a family; but it is remarkable that in the British as well as the Irish usages, in such partition, no distinction appears to have been made between legitimate and illegitimate children, but the progeny of a wife, and concubine, took equal shares, and so strong was the connection subsisting between the foster father and son that it was especially provided by law that "if a villain should take the son of a Baron to be fostered with the Baron's consent, such child should be participator of the estate of the villain equally with his own sons."

To prevent all disputes between the brethren, by the laws of Hywel Dda, the mode of partition was thus particularly described: "Three times shall a general division be made, first between brethren, afterwards between cousins, and the third between second cousins, after which there shall be no division of lands. When brothers shall divide their father's property amongst them, the *youngest* shall have the choice tenement with the appurtenances and the kettle and felling axe and the coulter. In law a father cannot bequeath these or give them to any one but the youngest son, and though they should be pawned, they shall never become forfeited; after that, let every brother



take by seniority, the youngest brother to divide." In all cases, however, the younger held his share in subordination to the elder who was therefore called Cyn-rhan.

## LAWS AS TO LAND DISPUTES.

Before leaving the laws of Hywel, we briefly state the practice of the ancient Britons in questions as to land. In causes of this nature, the whole of the proceedings were had, and held upon the lands in dispute. The King, or the person who represented him, presided and sat with his back to the sun and wind, lest he might be incommoded by them; the judge of the palace or senior judge of the Cwmwd being placed on his left, and another judge on his right hand: next to them sat the priest or priests, then two elders and the great men of the country. In the middle or immediately before the King, or his representative, was left a lane or entrance into the Court or his presence, on the right of which stood the demandant, his council and attorney, and behind them the summoner, and on the left the defendant, his council, attorney and summoner in the same manner. Pledges being first taken from both parties to abide by the decision of the Court, and silence being proclaimed by the crier, upon pain of forfeiting three cows or one hundred and twenty pence, the judges proceeded to hear the cause. The demandant was first called to name his council and attorney; this done, the judge asked him, "Do you place your entire confidence in them to gain or lose? are you also determined to abide by the decisions of this Court?" Being answered affirmatively, he put the same questions to the defendant, and upon his agreeing to abide by the directions and conduct of those he employed and to obey the sentence of the Court, the demandant orally *declared*, "I am the true proprietor of the lands in dispute, and if anyone will this gainsay, I have here those who are ready to maintain my right and inheritance, from which I have been wrongfully put out; I thereby pray the aid of the Court to be rightfully restored to my land, from which I have been thus unjustly expelled." His witnesses were now produced and the whole of his proof gone through before the defendant was heard, who, now being called upon for his defence, said, "Truly I am the proprietor of the land by right and inheritance, and because my title to it is perfect and secure, do I hold it, and if anyone will this gainsay, I have here sufficient witnesses to verify what I now assert, and if thou wert formerly possessed of this soil, thou wert afterwards rightfully ousted from it and if any one of this doubteth, I have here credible witnesses who this fact well know." His witnesses being then examined, the Judge asked both parties if they had done or if they chose to amend their complaint or plea, which it seems either side had a right to do in this stage of the business; if they declined it, the Judge recapitulated the evidence, explaining or commenting upon it, when he thought that necessary, and afterwards departed or retired to some little distance from the place where the Court was held, accompanied by the rest of the Court (the parties and their advocates excepted) and by the summoner, whose business it was to take care that no one overheard their consultations, under pain of forfeiting six cows to the King, or in his absence, three to his representative.

When they had retired, the priest in a short prayer, craved the interposition and direction of Providence to guide them to the truth and to enable them to decide rightfully, and then *chaunted* the *Pater noster*, upon which the Judge again summed up the whole of the proceedings, in which, if there appeared any defect of evidence, or any circumstances requiring further explanation, two of the judges appointed a conference with the parties and their advocates; this was called "Gair Cyfarth," signifying "an address," after which proceeding no witnesses could be produced by the parties. This rule was adopted upon sound policy, and was the result of good sense and experience, as it would have been highly improper to have permitted either the demandant or defendant after a hint from the Court as to any error, insufficiency, or contradiction in the evidence, to amend the defect by additional proof, which would make the cause endless. Indeed their practice, as here related, seems in some measure to be liable to that objection; especially when we learn, that when this conference was not appointed the parties might have another and another day to bring further witnesses, if they required it, even after the judge had retired, upon bringing pledges into the field for their punctuality, which pledges frequently, if not invariably, were confined in prison until the day assigned for hearing further witnesses, or as the Welsh call it, "*the day of gaining or losing*"; when that day arrived, and the witnesses were examined, the pledges were liberated and the judge proceeded to decide in favour of that party with whom the weight of evidence preponderated. If that was doubtful from contrariety of testimony or any other cause, the land in dispute was divided into moieties, and assigned, one half to the demandant, and the other share to the defendant. The fee to the Chief Justice in a cause of this nature was forty-eight pence, and to every other judge half as much. This form of trial forms a striking resemblance to the practice of arrainging a recovery in the English law; a ceremony which frequently provokes a smile from the unlearned bystander, and sometimes discomposes the gravity even of a barrister, while he repeats his antiquated lesson in unmeaning monotony. Much learning has been employed to discover the origin of the



English recovery. Lord Chief Justice Willes<sup>1</sup> in a cause referred for the opinion of the twelve judges in 1744, said that Pigott (who was as able a conveyancer as any man of the profession) had confounded himself and everybody else in his publication upon recoveries.

#### THE LORDS MARCHERS—TRIAL BY JURY.

By these laws was Wales governed until the Norman invasion; soon after this event the lords marchers having acquired possessions in the Principality, endeavoured to compel the inhabitants to adopt their system or code, which soon became blended and intermixed, not only with the Saxon, but by the adoption (as has been partly seen) of the ancient British laws, from all of which a composition has at last been formed, possessing, it must be confessed, some defects, and creating some tenures inimical, on their early introduction, to our idea of the liberty of the subject, yet compensating for all their imperfections by the institution of the trial by jury; the advantages of which the Welsh for a long time obstinately continued to reject, and blindly refused to acknowledge.

As these lords marchers made so conspicuous a figure in our country, it will here be necessary to take a slight view of their laws and the nature of their government, before proceeding to notice the English acts and ordinances which sometimes interfered to curb the power of these little potentates or to regulate the mode of their judicial proceedings.

The term or appellation of lords marchers or baron marchers is a corruption of lords or barons of the marchers or borders: they were the most powerful and enterprising of the Norman nobility; men bound by the strongest ties of interest to the crown of England, and consequently those in whom the sovereign placed the most implicit confidence. At first they built strong towns and forts upon the immediate borders, as Bristol, Gloucester, Worcester, Shrewsbury and Chester, which were all garrisoned, as well for their own defence as to annoy the Welshmen. Having seated themselves securely in those strong posts, they next proceeded further into Wales, and possessed themselves of several lordships, as Clifford, Hay, Chepstow, Monmouth, Usk, Newport, Abergavenny, Scenfrith, Builth, Brecknock and Radnor: it must not, however, be understood that this was done all at once, it required much time and was effected by different lords. The Earls of Chester and other noblemen did the same in Montgomery, Cedewin, Clunn, Oswestry, Whittington, Hawarden and Ellesmere; all these and other lands thus conquered by the English lords from the Welsh princes, and held, as they necessarily were, in chief from the crown of England, wherever they lay, were comprehended under the names of lordships marchers, as appears clearly from this circumstance among others, that offices holden of the *Principality*, and all other lordships in Wales, were returned into the exchequer, but, of lordships marchers, to Westminster. The term *marches of Wales* is to be understood, all Wales subdued by the English lords, and that it was not confined to that part called the marches, being that next adjoining to England, and thus were the proprietors first entitled lords of the marches; all called lords marchers wherever their dominions lay in the Principality,

Thus established, they held their seigniories freely, *per baroniam*, and exercised upon all occasions an almost sovereign dispensation. They built castles for their own residence and towns adjoining for their military dependents, from hence alone we are enabled to account for the many castles and small towns dispersed throughout the whole of Wales. These castellated mansions, many of them of considerable strength, were often irregularly built and upon no certain plan, the form depending entirely upon the caprice of the architect, or the circumstances and situation of the ground intended to be occupied. They generally preferred an elevated spot on a knoll above a river, though some are found without any seeming attention to these advantages, and the whole building was surrounded with a moat or foss; most of them were provided with an enclosed park, a warren, and tract of forest land for the maintenance of their cattle, sheep, and pigs, of which they kept a large stock.

#### NUMBER OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE CASTLES.

The number of castles in the Principality is said to have been about 143; of these there were thirteen within the small territory of Brecknock, and twenty-five at least within the adjoining county of Monmouth. These lordships were totally distinct from any shires, and being subject to the absolute sovereignty of their respective lords were in fact so many *imperia in imperio*. They had each a palatinate jurisdiction established within itself; their own mint, their own court, like the king's at Westminster, and out of their chancery issued all writs original and judicial. The king's writs were not even current among them, excepting only in Pembrokeshire, which perhaps, having been subjugated at the expense of the crown, was accounted to be a part of England, and therefore called "little England beyond Wales;" nor were the sheriffs or other officers of the crown permitted to execute any such writs or precepts within these precincts unless when the whole barony was in

<sup>1</sup> Wilson's Reports, edition of 1799, p. 73.



question or in cases of high treason. Maddox, in his *Baronia Anglica*, instances Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, as enjoying all these privileges within his honour at Brecknock, quoting the decision of a cause, in which the exclusive judicial authority of the lords marchers was maintained, between that nobleman and Roger Mortimer of Blannelyfni; so that all manner of indictments and processes were made in the name, and every trespass was laid to be done against the peace of the special lord, who was also, as appears by a document in the Tower of London, entitled according to the law and custom of the marches, to all the goods and chattels of persons dying intestate within their jurisdiction.

## GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LORDS MARCHERS.

The first grand object of the marchers after their settlement in the country was to reduce the inhabitants to a peaceable acquiescence with the English form of government. All Welsh customs as well as the language were to the utmost discouraged; the Norman English laws were introduced and for the most part administered; their tenures were principally English or Norman, being transmitted by fine, recovery, feoffment and livery of seizin. Some lords however, from motives of prudence, permitted their Welsh tenants to enjoy many of their ancient laws, when they were not repugnant to the laws of England, or injurious to their own interest. Among other concessions in their favour was the permission of the usage of gavelkind and the transfer of land by the surrender in court, agreeably to the laws of Hywel Dda. This they called Cof-Llys ac Ysdyd Wialen; the first term signifying the recollection or evidence of the court or judges concerning causes or questions determined before them, as well as of transfers of land thus publicly made, and the second phrase means an investiture by extending or delivering a rod to a person when they took possession of an estate. In some of the Welsh lordships the Normans continuing this Welsh ceremony, ingrafted upon it one of the tenets of the feudal system, that the property of the soil was originally in the lord, and by him granted to his tenants for their lives only, under certain services; that upon the death of any one of them, though they usually admitted his heir, yet they were not bound to do so, and acting under this impression, some of them took very heavy fines for the investiture by the rod to the estate of the father. This was considered so great a grievance in the hundred of Builth formerly, that several of the tenants there compounded with the lords for the exemption from this fine, by the payment of an annual sum, which was known and paid in 1800 under the term of Tâl di-estyn, or the tax for being exempted from the payment of the fine on delivery of the rod. It is to be observed that where this custom was permitted, no deeds are to be found in any lands previous to the reign of Henry the Eighth, when Wales was made shire ground, and even so late as the middle of the seventeenth century, it appears by a recital in a will in the register office at Brecon, that lands in Llanwrthwl were conveyed by one person to another without writing, for a valuable consideration, "according to the ancient manner, in the presence of three or four neighbours;" whereas for lands held under English tenures, deeds remain dated as far back as the reign of Edward<sup>1</sup> the First.

In some lordships there were two courts, one for the English inhabitants called Englischeria, or the rights of an Englishman, and Wallescheria, or the rights of a Welshman; the former was abolished in the fourteenth of Edward the Third. Mr. Gough observes that, strictly speaking, both these terms were applied to the untimely death of any person, and if he was not known, or the manner of his death notorious, an inquisition was to be made whether he was an Englishman or a Welshman, upon which the coroner and his jury were to determine *super visum corporis*. Our lawyers derive the origin of Englischerie from an ancient law of Canute, who being about to leave the kingdom, and afraid the English might take advantage of his absence to oppress and destroy his native subjects, procured the following law, in order to prevent homicides; that when any person was killed and the slayer escaped, the person killed should always be considered as a Dane, unless proved by his friends or relations to be English, and in default of such proof, that the ville should pay forty marks for the Dane's death, and if it could not be raised within the ville, that then the hundred should pay it; this singular but oppressive provision, it was thought, would engage every one in the prevention or prosecution of such secret offences. It is probable that the presentments of Welsherie were founded on a like policy.

The lords marchers increased in number until the final reduction of Wales by King Edward the First, when soon after the death and defeat of Llewelyn, the last Prince of Wales of the British race, the heir apparent of England was substituted in his room, though Sir John Doddridge says, Edward

<sup>1</sup> Theo. Jones possessed a conveyance executed in the reign of Edward I. from one Sollers to Brett, of the mansion and lordship of Porthaml in Breconshire. It was remarkable that the arms on the seal appendant to this deed were borne *quarterly*: the late Mr.

Henry Williams of Crickhowell had also a deed of conveyance of lands in Llangattock of the fee of Gwernvale, bearing date 11th Ed. 2d, subsequently possessed by the Rev. H. T. Payne of Llanbedr.



the First claimed it by a grant from his father, and even expressed his displeasure at Llewelyn's being permitted to hold the title, which produced the following rebuke from Henry: "*Quid ad me? Terra tua est, ex dono meo; exere vires primitivas, famam excita juvenilem, ut te de cætero timeant Inimici, me autem alia negotia detinent occupatum.*" This sharp reproof (which, however, is too dignified for the mouth of the feeble Henry the Third) instantly determined Edward to commence and persevere in the conquest, to secure which, when obtained, his first care was to regulate the judicial proceedings of the country. For this purpose he directed inquiries upon oath to be made before certain commissioners with the Bishop of St. David's at their head, into all the ancient laws and usages of the Principality. The certificate and returns thereupon made, are printed in the appendix to Hywel Dda's laws; they contain much curious and valuable information, but are too long for insertion in a work of this nature.

#### THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S AND LLANDDEW.

After the statute of Rhuddlan no lordship marcher was created, nor could any individual assume to himself any liberty, privilege, or prerogative which he did not possess previous to that Act, otherwise than by special grant from the crown of England. It follows, then, that no lordship marcher could exist but such as was holden in *capite ante conquestum Walliæ*. It is true that many lords had jurisdiction royal of their lands, long subsequent to this, but we are not to consider them as lords marchers, but as deriving their privileges under grants or charters, and many of them will be found to have been tenants to the ancient marchers. The same liberties were also purchased by bishops, abbots and the cells of St. John of Jerusalem, who held their lordships in Wales as the ancient dowers of their sees and abbies, and never came to the same by conquest like the lords marchers; they frequently held them under the free gift of the ancient princes and reguli of the country, subject to the legal jurisdiction of their patrons. Such, for instance, was the tenure by which the Bishops of St. David's held the castle and manor of Llanddew in Breconshire. Upon the expulsion of the Welsh chiefs by the Normans, these religious, equally with the lay marchers, assumed a royal power, though they were afterwards obliged to compromise for those liberties with the crown: this appears from the charter of Richard the Second to Adam Bishop of St. David's; the words are these: "*Ut cum ipse episcopatum suum et quamlibet percellam ejusdem de nobis, ut de coronâ nostra integrè teneat, ipseq. et predecessores sui episcopi loci illius jurisdictione regali in omnibus dominiis suis episcopatus predict. et ut in cognicionibus omnimodorum placitorum personalium et realium ac de coronâ, ad prosecutionem suam propriam ac aliorum cum omnibus proficuis inde provenientibus juxta consuetudines partium illarum totis retroactis temporibus usi fuerunt et gavisî absq. hoc quod nos seu genitores nostri seu aliquis alius dominus marchiæ aut eorum ministri racione aliquorum dominorum in Wallia infra dicta dominia ipsius episcopi aliquo modo intromittere consueverint debuimus aut debeant.*" From hence it is clear that the Bishops of St. David's before any charter obtained, had assumed to themselves the exercise of *jura regalia* and the same authority in all things, as the lords marchers, and prescribed to hold cognizance of pleas between their tenants and dependants, which by the laws of England they were not entitled to do; so that if in the antient times of the Princes of Wales the bishops had not these jurisdictions (which we have no reason to suppose they had) yet it appears from the words of this charter, that after the power of those princes was destroyed in Pembrokeshire, saving the lands of spiritual men (which to invade was reckoned sacrilege), the bishops were under the necessity of assuming that high authority, in order to maintain peace and good government in their territories, and therefore we see that in the reign of Richard the Second, the Bishops of St. David's used all those privileges by prescription, after the example of their neighbours the lords marchers.

#### THE STATUTE OF RHUDDLAN.

It is now, however, time to look cursorily over the statutes of the King and Parliament of England relative to the affairs of Wales. The first which appears on this subject, passed in the twelfth year of its conqueror Edward the First, is called by the Welsh "*Cyfraith Rhuddlan*," and by the English corruptly the Statute of Rothelan, and has before been referred to. This was intended principally for the government of that part of the Principality which was not under the jurisdiction of the marchers, but it may reasonably be presumed, that where this and other laws of the English Court did not affect the power or the revenues of these noblemen, they submitted to their provisions and assimilated the practice of their courts to those in the neighbourhood, as directed by the King and Parliament of England. This statute regulates the proceedings in the county and tourn courts; in the list of offences to be inquired of in the latter are some which are very extraordinary, viz., of those who whiten skins of beasts or horses, knowing them to be stolen, so that they cannot be proved by the lawful proprietors; of these who alter stolen cloaths, as a cloak into a coat or a great-coat and the like, and of those who shear sheep in the night time and flay them as well as other animals.



This statute proceeds to abolish compurgation in criminal cases as well as in causes with respect to lands, but allows it in all others, if the inhabitants of the country wish it to be continued. To this mode of acquittal, which was in general use with the Welsh and to which they were extremely partial for many succeeding centuries, there may be great and material objections, but it has also some considerable advantages, particularly in cases where no other proof can be adduced. It is said that it was an inlet and temptation to perjury, but when it was attended with the precaution used among the Britons who required sometimes twelve, sometimes twenty-four, and sometimes forty-eight neighbours to swear they believed that what the accused person or defendant deposed was true, it must be admitted that every prudent measure was taken to guard against the mischiefs to be apprehended, and that a notoriously bad man could not easily, perhaps not possibly, procure so many persons of character to support his credit. The remains of this practice lurked among us in our County Court in Breconshire for many years; it was called *purgation by the common rule*. A notice is sent (after the entry of the first summons and appearance of the defendant) that if the supposed debtor will not swear that he is not indebted to the plaintiff, he (the plaintiff) will prove his demand against him upon his own oath.

Barrington, in a note to his *Observations on the Ancient Statutes* says, this Act recites the *total conquest of Wales*; in this he is not perfectly correct. The preamble states that "Wales which was formerly subject by *feodal right* to the Crown of England was then by the mercy of Providence *converted and united* to the same, as a part or member of it;" but the lordship marchers at this time formed no part of the country here said to be thus united; those who then ruled over these possessions considered them as their own private property, having been acquired by their own valour, and that of their followers totally independent of the Crown of England, not did they acknowledge themselves to be English subjects, further than in respect to their estates in that country. Edward perceived this, and endeavoured to lessen their power and curb their insolence, but without effect. About the latter end of his reign he took occasion to question some of their tenures, claims and privileges by a *quo warranto*; Earl Warren, one of the principal of these noblemen, very significantly clapped his hand upon his sword and said: "By this warranty did my ancestors win my lands, and by this do I hold them." The King, finding all the other barons determined to support him, felt the force of the argument, and did not think it prudent to dispute the validity of the warranty.

#### EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE.

Nothing further passed relative to the affairs of Wales, until the fifteenth of the reign of Edward the Third, when the King, in the Parliament held at Westminster in that year, created his eldest son, Edward the Black Prince, Prince of Wales, investing him "*per sertum in capite et annulum in digito aureum ac virgam argenteam juxta morem*," and afterwards endowed him with all manors, lordships, castles and lands appertaining to the Principality as well as the forfeited lands of Rhys ap Meredith, which in the reign of Edward the First had escheated to the Crown by his rebellion. In the twenty-eighth of Edward the Third, an Act was passed determining that all the lords marchers of Wales should be perpetually attending and annexed to the Crown of England, as they and their ancestors were at all times passed, and not to the Principality of Wales, in whose hands soever they should be, or thereafter should come. In this the King seems to have had two objects, first to convince those haughty subjects, that he was entitled to, and determined to enforce their allegiance, and, secondly, to avoid throwing too much power into the hands of the heir apparent, or the person who might become Prince of Wales; for he appears to have in contemplation the possibility of that dignity being dissevered from the Crown. Perhaps on the death of his eldest son, his grandson being very young, he may have intended it for one of his other sons, though he afterwards relinquished the idea.

#### SURVEY OF LANDS.

In the reign of this king, an exact survey was made of all the lands of the Principality, by commissioners specially appointed by the Crown, for the purpose of assigning a proper dower for the Black Prince's widow, but as the profits were found to be of uncertain value, varying according to the circumstances of the times, it became necessary, in order to make a just estimate, to form an average on the aggregate of three years; the commissioners took the years 47, 48 and 49 of this reign, when it appeared that the sum total of the revenues of Wales amounted to £4,684 18s 5d.

#### THE FOURTH HENRY'S LAWS.

After this reign, no laws were enacted by the English Parliament to affect Wales, until the time of Henry the Fourth, who, goaded and teized by the rebellion of Glyndw'r and by the support received by Richard the Second from the Welsh, was so exasperated with those "barfooted rascals," whom he affected at one time to despise, that he prohibited any one of that country from wearing



arms, buying lands in the neighbouring counties of England, assembling together without leave, having any house of defence (except a bishop), or holding any office *in his own country*. He enacted that no Englishman should be condemned at the suit of a Welshman but by an *English* jury, that no *Englishman* marrying a Welshwoman should hold any office there; in short, he appears to wish he could prevent them from eating, by prohibiting the importation of any victuals into Wales. It is true that these statutes were very seldom acted upon, and all of them (one only excepted, hereafter to be mentioned) were wiped off the statute book in the time of James the First, but the king who could recommend, and the senators who could assist, in enacting such oppressive and iniquitous laws, mistook their abilities as well as situations, when they fancied themselves wise legislators or sound politicians, and were better calculated to occupy stalls in Carnaby Market, or Billingsgate Street, than the palace at Westminster or the seats in St. Stephen's chapel.

There was a statute enacted in this reign remaining unrepealed in 1800 which is, perhaps, not perfectly, or at least not generally, understood. It is in the following words: "Item to eschew many diseases and mischiefs which may have happened before this time in the land of Wales by many *wasters*, rhymers, minstrels and other vagabonds; it is ordained and stablished that *no* waster *rhymmer*, minstrel *nor* vagabond be in any wise sustained in the land of Wales to make comorthies or gathering on the common people there." Waster in this statute, which is also written *westour*, is a corruption of the Welsh *gwestwr*, frequently (according to a well-known rule in orthography) spelt *westwr*; it signifies a guest, an unbidden visitor, one who goes from house to house, demanding provisions or purveyance for the king or prince or under some such pretence. The laws of Hywel Dda frequently mention *gwesdfa'r Brenhin*, the king's right of purveyance, and regulate the mode of collecting it: the *gwestwr*, *westwr* or *waster* was the officer who was employed upon this occasion, and went about eating and drinking at the expense of the public and afterwards procuring food and supplies for his master.

#### THE FIFTH HENRY'S LAWS.

Henry the Fifth, following the narrow policy of his father, in the first year of his reign, passed or at least sanctioned a very severe law against the Welsh, though from the support he received from our countrymen, Sir David Gam, Sir Roger Vaughan, and their adherents at Agincourt, his sentiments were considerably altered in their favour before he died. This statute recites that "Welshmen pursued Englishmen for the death of their friends by indictments, accusements, or impeachments, and some by menaces and distresses, and some by taking their bodies and imprisoning them till they made them *gree* to them or excused themselves by one *assache*, after the custom of Wales, that is to say, by the oath of three hundred men; it is therefore ordained that no such quarrel, *action* or demand be made by the rebels or their adherents, be he cousin, ally or friend, under pain of treble damages or imprisonment for two years, and to make fine and ransom for his delivery; so that the effect of this law as far as it is prohibitory in the first part of the enacting clause, was to shut the courts of justice against inquiries into any enormities committed by the English in Wales during the rebellion, as it is called, and the mischief complained of in the latter part of the sentence is difficult to be understood; perhaps the Welsh still continued to require the *galanas* or compensation for murder, and the offender when taken, was imprisoned till he paid it, unless he could get three hundred persons to prove his inability to discharge it; but if the grievance intended to be remedied is not stated with sufficient precision and clearness, the term of purgation here introduced baffles every conjecture as to etymology *among Welshmen*. *Assache* is not found in Hywel Dda or any other code of British laws now extant. Blount, in his law dictionary, calls *Assach* a strange kind of purgation in Wales by the oath of three hundred men.

Had the statute abolishing the *assache* stopped there, or had it been satisfied with preventing the Welshmen from taking the law into their own hands, by imprisoning the subjects of the King of England, until they extorted heavy fines from them, the Welsh would have had no cause of complaint against the Parliament for their interference to prevent the mischief; but to permit an enemy merely because he happened to be born on the Eastern side of the Wye or the Severn, to indulge in the passions of revenge or malice with impunity was legalising murder and adding oppression to cruelty and injustice.

#### OTHER OPPRESSIVE LAWS.

Whatever might have been the cause of offence given to "the meek usurper," three or four severe and impolitic Acts were directed against the Welsh in his reign, which do no great credit either to the heads or the hearts of the legislators of that time. By the first, the benefits of an useful and equitable law for rectifying errors in judicial proceedings were confined to England *exclusively*; by the second, it was declared to be *high treason* to take the person or *goods* of an Englishman, and to carry them into Wales until they were made to *gree*, and by another Act of the same



reign to take and carry away the goods of an Englishman under colour of distress was made felony, and lastly, *all* the laws theretofore made against the Welshmen were confirmed, *and all grants of fairs and markets to persons of that country annulled*. The House of Mortimer, had, it is true, great possessions, and a considerable party of adherents in Wales and the Marches, but the name of Tudor (which family after the marriage of Owen with the king's mother became his warm friends and partizans) were equally respectable, and the followers and dependants of that house were also as numerous, if not more so than those of the other faction. Besides it must be observed that the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster, which afterwards produced such afflicting consequences to the nation, and wrote its history in such bloody characters, as centuries were not able entirely to efface, did not break out into open violence until after the last of these opprobrious Acts was passed: to the history of England we have recourse in vain to discover the motives which dictated them, nor are they more clearly or perfectly traced from any other source of information, unless we admit with Warrington (who with some degree of probability asserts it) that, "the manners of the Welsh nation during this and the two preceding reigns, actuated by few other springs than their passions, restrained by no regular police, no longer animated by the presence of their princes, nor their minds softened by the influence of native arts, had degenerated into the deepest ferocity"; yet even in this case it is to be lamented that the English did not rather attempt to convert the long subsisting enmity between the two countries into friendship, by adopting mild and lenient measures, than by continuing to preserve and continue it by sanguinary and oppressive laws.

During the intestine broils which convulsed the English nation for twenty years and upwards, after the death or murder of Henry the Sixth, both Yorkists and Lancastrians were too busily engaged in the destruction of each other to bestow any part of their attention or their time upon the inhabitants of Wales; during this period, therefore, they were permitted to drag after them those chains only which were forged for them in the preceding reigns. But it is very extraordinary that Henry the Seventh, their countryman (as he called himself when he thought it his interest to do so), who upon some occasions boasted of his descent from the ancient Britons and ordered genealogists to trace his pedigree and to preserve the line and names of his ancestors in that country, should yet not have made one effort to lighten their fetters or to redress their grievances. The Principality is not even mentioned or the inhabitants noticed in any statute passed in his reign, excepting in one, allowing them to import wine of Gascony or *Guienne* in common with their fellow subjects of England or Ireland.

#### HENRY THE EIGHTH'S LAWS.

Our *dread* sovereign Henry the Eighth (the first who took that title and who well deserved it), the son and successor of the cold-blooded Richmond, whom nothing could move but interest, and nothing stimulate but avarice, made us ample amends for the inattention and apathy of his father, and may with much greater propriety (without insisting too stiffly upon the high value or worth of his intentions), be styled the Welsh, than Edward the First, the English Justinian, the title Lord Coke confers upon him. Edward certainly did much to soften the rigour and ameliorate the English laws, considering the days in which he lived, but Henry the Eighth, modelled, perfected, and indeed almost created a system of jurisprudence, out of a jumble of incoherent, jarring and confused customs, the progeny of different times and countries, and established a code which, as it was earnestly sought<sup>1</sup> for by the Welsh, has been cheerfully obeyed from that day, and which has reconciled us by a complete participation of all the privileges of Englishmen, to the entire theory, and nearly to the practice of the laws of England, hitherto imperfectly known to us and therefore only partially adopted or approved of.

During the cessation of *legislative* as well as military hostilities, enjoyed by the Welsh after the death of Henry the Sixth, until the middle or latter end of this reign, they were employed in intestine feuds and contentions among themselves. These unfortunate animosities and sanguinary domestic broils, so far from being checked were promoted by the imbecility of the expiring authority of the lords marchers, which, though despotic, was in some measure necessary for the preservation of the peace and welfare of society; we must not therefore be surprised that when the laws of these barons were disregarded with impunity, and no others substituted in their stead, that the inhabitants, subject to no control, became licentious in their manners, savage and ferocious in their passions, dishonest in their principles; and that, of course, a wild and frantic spirit of insubordination pervaded the whole Principality.

#### LEGAL CUSTOMS IN THE LORDSHIP OF BRECKNOCK.

Henry saw the necessity of reforming them; but he very prudently proceeded with caution. In

<sup>1</sup> See Lord Herbert of Cherbury's *History of Henry Eighth* p. 371. and Warrington's *History of Wales*. The manly and nervous style, which the petition of the inhabitants of Wales to Henry the Eighth

displays, and the good sense and sound policy therein apparent, do immortal honour to the inhabitants of that country who were employed in proposing, framing and presenting that document.



the twenty-first year of his reign (or thereabouts), he appointed fourteen persons, amongst whom were his secretary Thomas Cromwell, Sir John Porte, knight, one of the justices of the common pleas, Sir John Hales, Sir John Inglefield, one of the barons of the Exchequer, William Walwyn, and Llewelyn ap Morgan ap Sir David Gam, empowering them or any two of them (*quorum* the said Sir John Porte,<sup>1</sup> etc., should be one), to act as justices itinerant within the town and lordship of Brecknock, to hear and determine all complaints and suits to be brought before them, *according to the laws and customs there used and known*. What was done upon this commission, or whether any proceedings were had in consequence of it, cannot be ascertained, but it was very soon afterwards followed by an ordinance, the purport of which it is sometimes difficult to comprehend; it certainly was intended as a boon to the subject, yet the mischiefs to be remedied, or the benefits to be derived from it are not *always* clearly elucidated in this document.

It sets out with directing, that when any person within the town and lordship of Brecknock shall be attached for "suspecon" of murder, felony or breach of the peace, he may be let to bail, and that upon his appearance to take his trial, or upon his entering into sureties for his "good aberying," such sureties (in the first case) shall be discharged and in the latter case the principal set at liberty; that when any officer of the Crown *surmised* that a fine was due for a supposed breach of the peace, it should not be levied by distress or the person from whom it was claimed attached, if he brought sureties to abide by the verdict of twelve men impannelled to try him, or by a decree of the court if he confessed his offence. This instrument then proceeds to recite, that in delay of justice, it was customary in this country to challenge jurors as being of kin to one of the parties, and particularly that another challenge was frequently known called *veterate*, which is explained to mean "*olde rancorrous malice*," supposed to be entertained by a juror, not because one of the parties or his ancestors had slain one of the relations of the challenged, but because the "*juryman or one of his ancestors within the fourth degree of marriage had murdered or slain one of the Kynne to the plaintiff or defendant within the fourth degree of marriage*." To remedy this mischief, the ordinance prohibits any challenges of this nature, unless the person challenged was really and actually by the true line within the fourth degree of consanguinity to one of the said parties, and the challenge called *veterate* was disallowed, unless the murder alleged was committed within ten years next preceding the trial, and it was further decreed that every just reason which could be shown to induce the court to believe that a juror was corrupted, or entertained a partiality for either of the parties, should be heard and admitted as a good cause of challenge.

#### THE GREAT SESSIONS OF EYRE.

Thus far the subject is favoured, and even what follows seems to have been intended, if not to lighten the burdens, at least to facilitate the payment of a debt due from the inhabitants of Brecknockshire to the Crown, though how this debt accrued we know not and must be left very much to conjecture; the next clause, however, provides that the tenants of the town and lordship of Brecon shall pay the King by *installments* the sum of three thousand eight hundred and fifty four marks and half of a mark, three shillings and fourpence-halfpenny farthing, for the general pardon granted them under the great seal *for the redemption and dissolving of the great sessions in Eyre* in the sixth of King Henry the Fifth, the eighteenth of Henry the Sixth, the twenty-third of Henry the Seventh and the eleventh of Henry the Eighth, and likewise an arrear of one thousand five hundred and thirty-seven marks and half a mark and threepence-farthing, for the arrears of rent, fee farms and other dues payable to the Crown on certain days annually in this document specified.

What is here meant by the redemption and dissolution of the great sessions in Eyre, or why the inhabitants should be anxious to purchase an exemption from such a jurisdiction cannot perhaps ever be fully or satisfactorily explained; in all probability the Welsh had an aversion to the English laws introduced by the justices itinerant, particularly as the principal purport of their commission was to inquire into offences *surmised* to be committed against the Crown, and to cause the fines, *alleged* to be forfeited thereon, to be levied, which was effected in so arbitrary a manner and with so heavy a hand, that the inhabitants were glad to compound by the payment of a sum in gross to be relieved from so oppressive an inquisition, and to stand (as the legal phrase is) *recti in curia*; but from whatever cause this debt arose, the amount appears so enormous in proportion to the number and resources of the tenants, and others on whom it was charged, that it is no wonder if not being all paid, though continually demanded by the officers of the Crown, this burden produced the insurrection mentioned to have occurred on the death of Elizabeth.

After this follow some directions as to the mode of levying the money and the manner of appointing officers for that purpose, who are generally required to be resident in the lordship. Henry,

<sup>1</sup> Llewelyn ap Morgan was not of the *quorum*.



Marquis of Worcester, who is recited to have been steward there for life, by virtue of letters patents from the king, and to have full power and authority to appoint all the officers within that district, is requested, that for the purposes just mentioned, he will permit the king's receiver to name such persons as he may think fit. All the ordinances and "commaundments made by the most excellent prince of noble memorie, King Henry the Seventh, and the late Duke of Buckyngham, and all other lordes marchis in South Wales, for the amendment and avauncement of justice and good rule" are ratified and confirmed; this clause is again succeeded by a number of regulations for securing and bringing to trial felons who fled from one lordship marcher to another, specifying also the penalties upon officers not residing. This ordinance, it may be necessary to observe, contains several other regulations well worthy of the attention of the historian and antiquarian; an inquiry is directed to be made how far it would be beneficial to the Crown to appoint an *Englishman* to be attorney-general for South Wales, and there is also one singular provision included in it which deserves notice: "No man shall be of counsaile with any ffelonye at the corte when such ffelon is in reigntyng or arrayned there, oonles that he may dispende in lands and tenements in freeholde by the yere ten pounds, and if the felon be founde guiltie and cast of the felonie that then the same person councillor, to forfayt to the King's highness all his lands, goods and chattels, or else to make ffyne and ransom for his great offence at our said sovereyn lord's pleasure."

## THE CUSTODY OF JURORS.

In a very short time after the will of our *dread* sovereign had been signified to the inhabitants of Brecknockshire, in the manner we have related, an Act of Parliament passed, which recites "that for lack of diligence and sure custody of jurors sworn for trials of murder, etc., in Wales and the marches of the same, the friends and kinsmen of the accused frequently tampered with the jury, and suborned them to procure an acquittal"; for remedy whereof it was enacted that an officer should be deputed and sworn by the court before whom the offender was tried, truly and diligently to keep the same jury, and not to suffer meat, drink or fire to be ministered to them without leave of the court, and that he would not suffer any person to speak to them, or speak to them himself without the like permission, unless to ask whether they were agreed upon their verdict, and if any juror who acquitted a felon and gave an untrue verdict against the king, contrary to good and pregnant evidence, or eat, drank or spoke to any other person than the officer so sworn, *the lord president and other the council of the marches* had power to bind him over to appear before them to take his trial for such offence, and upon conviction to fine and imprison him.

The next Act in the same year recites the frequency of robberies in Gloucestershire and Somersetshire by the inhabitants of South Wales, and that the stolen goods were conveyed across the Severn by the passages or ferries of Aust, Framiload, etc.; to prevent which mischief, barge-masters are prohibited from carrying goods, or persons of this description, and all others who being unknown to them, refused to discover their names and places of abode, before sun-rise or after sun-set.

This statute is followed by another describing the Welsh of that day in language in which it is to be hoped their crimes are exaggerated, though they were at this time in a very uncivilised state, and the offences of robbery and murder too prevalent in the country. The preamble tells us, that "the people of Wales and the marches of the same, not dreading the good and wholesome laws of this realm, had of long time continued in the perpetration and commission of divers and manifold thefts, murders, rebellions, wilful burning of houses, and other *scelerous deeds and abominable malefacts* to the high displeasure of God and the inquietation and disturbance of the public weal, which malefacts and scelerous deeds were so rooted and fixed in the same people, that they were not likely to cease unless some sharp correction and punishment for redress and *amputation*, was provided according to the demerit of the defenders."; for remedy whereof it is thereby enacted, that every person dwelling in Wales, shall, upon monition or warning given of the time of holding courts there, appear before the justice, steward, lieutenant, or other officer, at all and every sessions in any castle, fortress, or place, there to do and execute such things which to him affere or appertain.<sup>1</sup> The second section in part diselos the oppressions practised by the officers of the lords marchers upon the inhabitants of Wales, for it recites that they had often and sundry times theretofore *exacted* of the king's subjects within such lordships where they had rule and authority, and also committed them to strait duress and imprisonment for small, light, and *feigned* causes and extortions and compelled them thereby to pay unto them fines for their redemption; it is therefore provided that if any officer of a lord marcher by untrue surmises commit any person to duress or imprisonment, the king's

<sup>1</sup> This is the origin of the legal *fiction*, that every individual is present at each great sessions held in and for the county in which he or she resides.



commissioners and council of the marches upon suit made and good proof that there were no just grounds for confinement, may order satisfaction to the party injured.

#### CUSTOMS AS TO THE FORESTS.

It is remarkable that in the preamble to the next statute relative to the affairs of Wales, appointing justices of peace in that country, which recapitulates the enormities committed in many counties in the Principality, the counties of Brecknock, Radnor and Monmouth are omitted in the black catalogue of *malefactors*; this part of Wales therefore was either more civilised, or as is more probable, the lordship marchers or the greatest part of them being in the possession of the Crown of England, they were secured in their obedience, and their ferocity effectually restrained by the laws or troops of that monarch.

This Act is immediately succeeded by another, which recites a very extraordinary custom in the forests of Wales, and which is thereby prohibited in future; it states the usage to be, that "if any of the king's subjects fortun'd to pass, go or ride through the said forests, not having a token delivered him by the chief foresters, rulers or walkers (such person not being a yearly tributor or *chenser*,<sup>1</sup> he was obliged to pay the forester, etc., a grievous fine, and if taken, found or *espied* twenty-four feet out of the highway, he forfeited all the gold he had about him, and was liable to lose a joint of one of his hands, or to pay a fine at the will of the forester; and also, that if stolen cattle were brought or strayed into the forest, the officers had a right to seize and detain them as their perquisites; so that the owners (as the statute observes) had no remedy or mode to recover them, but by way of redemption or buying again of their own property. These were certainly unreasonable and iniquitous customs, yet the reader who will have recourse to the forest laws in the reigns of our early Norman conquerors, will see many of a similar description, and their long continuance in Wales can only be attributed to the less advanced state of civilisation of the inhabitants of that country.

#### ACT OF UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Hitherto Henry seems to have had in contemplation only the redress of partial grievances, but the experience of the inadequacy of the laws hitherto provided, as well as the political and commercial benefits likely to result to both countries, loudly called for their incorporation as the most effectual expedient to prevent in future those disgraceful outrages which characterised the Principality, and to reconcile the inhabitants to a prompt obedience to the laws of the empire. In the twenty-seventh year, therefore, of this monarch's reign passed the Act of Union or annexation of Wales to England, which begins with asserting the right of the Crown of England to the dominion over the Principality with a laboured and pompous though almost ludicrous solemnity. The latter country, it is said, "*justly and righteously* is and *ever hath* been incorporated, annexed, united and subject to the imperial crown of this realm as a very member and *joint* of the same, whereof the king's most royal majesty, *of mere droit and very right*, is *very* head, king, lord and ruler," yet because "*divers rights, usages, laws and customs be far discrepant from the laws and customs of this realm, and because that the people of the same dominion have and do daily use a speech nothing like ne consonant to the natural mother tongue used within this realm*," some rude and ignorant people have made distinctions between the king's subjects of England and Wales, which has occasioned many quarrels between them, to prevent which in future, the king "of a singular love which he beareth towards his subjects of his said dominion of Wales," and minding to extend the English laws to that country, and, "*utterly to extirp*" all sinister usages and customs, and to bring the subjects of his realm and the said dominion into amiable concord and unity, with the consent and by the authority of Parliament, enacts, that from henceforth all persons "born and to be born in Wales shall have, enjoy and inherit all and singular freedoms, liberties, rights, privileges and laws within this his realm, and other the king's dominions as other the king's subjects naturally born within the same, have, enjoy, and inherit," and that all persons inheritable to any manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, or other hereditaments which shall descend after the feast of All Saints next coming (Michaelmas, 1635) within the said Principality, country or dominion of Wales, or within any particular lordship, part or parcel thereof, shall for ever from and after the said feast inherit and be inheritable to the same manor, lands, etc., after the English tenure, without division or partition, and after the form of the laws of England and not after the Welsh tenure, or after the form of any Welsh laws or customs, and yet the 35th section of this very statute provides, that when lands in Wales have been immemorially,

<sup>1</sup> *Chensere*, such as paid tribute or cense, quitrent or chiefrent, farmers or fee-farmers; for so the French *censier* signifies, says Blount. Cense, rent of assize, quit rent, old rent, chief rent, the first pecuniary charge that is laid on conquered or uninclosed and

uncultivated land, and an acknowledgment of the direct seignior of him who grants it. This imposition derived its origin from the first conquest of Gaul by the French.



by the laudable custom of the country, departable among issues and heirs male, they shall so continue: thus the destructive tenure of gavelkind, inimical alike to domestic happiness and political independence, was permitted to remain until the 34th and 35th of the same reign, when it was totally abolished in Wales, though it lingered, in defiance of law, in some places in Glamorganshire as late as 1800.

The third section of the Act of Union extends the English laws to Wales, and by the fourth, the mischiefs produced by an *imperium* or rather *imperia in imperio* are recited. The lords marchers exercising an unlimited and oppressive authority over their vassals, frequently at variance with the Crown and each other, and jealous of their seignioral rights, were deaf to the claims of justice or true policy, and blind to the interests of society at large; insomuch that they even encouraged outlaws and protected thieves and murderers, provided they were permitted to partake of the plunder; yet still the Legislature seems to have proceeded with caution, and to have been apprehensive of giving offence to some nobleman who possessed seignioral rights in Wales, for the statute provides that every person, then being a lord marcher, shall have a moiety of the fines and forfeitures imposed on his tenants and the mises and profits due from them, and shall also hold courts and law days as in times past, though their lordships merged and were constituted into parts of the counties in which they were situated or to which they adjoined.

#### ANCIENT PARISHES IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK.

From the description here given of what was thence forward to be considered as the county of Brecon, we learn what were then denominated the Marches in that neighbourhood. The names of places are horribly misspelt in this Act, but as written at this day they appear to consist of the following districts or parishes: Brecknock (meaning the town of that name and its vicinity), Crickhowel, Tretower, Penkelley, English Talgarth, Welsh Talgarth, Dinas, Glynbwch, Cantreff-selyff, Llanddew, Blanollyfni, Ystradyw, Builth and Llangorse; these are all by this law made an integral and *indivisible* part and parcel of the county of Brecknock. It is further enacted, that Brecknock shall be considered as the shire-town, that the county court shall be held there, and in order to save the inhabitants the trouble and expense of making their payments to the Crown at Westminster, a court of chancery and exchequer was appointed to be held at the king's castle of Brecknock, where the sheriffs of Breconshire and Radnorshire were to account before his auditor or proper officer. This law was acted upon in the early part of the 19th century, and the auditor attended in October annually to receive the fines and rents due to the Crown, although since the demolition of the castle the audit was held in one of the principal inns in the town. Some further enactments follow, such as, that *two* members shall be chosen to sit in the English Parliament for Monmouthshire, and one for the borough, *one* for each county in Wales, and one for each borough there, being a shire town; the king was empowered at any time during the term of three years next after the dissolution of the then Parliament, to *suspend or repeal, revoke or abrogate this whole Act or any part thereof as should stand with his most gracious pleasure*, and lastly, a reservation was made in favour of the rights of Sir Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrars of Chartley, Chief Justice of South Wales, and steward and receiver of the lordship of Builth in the marches of Wales.

#### APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFFS.

In this Act the office of sheriff in the counties of Wales is frequently mentioned, but at that time and for a few years afterwards, their duty was of a very different nature from what it is at present; they were then only employed to collect the revenues of the Crown, to levy fines and to accompany the justices in Eyre in their circuits: they were appointed for life by patent, and the place being considered lucrative as well as respectable, was generally bestowed on some court favourite. Though the patents or grants made by Henry, as well as his father, were resumed and annulled in 1540, yet there were only nominal sheriffs in some counties and none in others,<sup>1</sup> until the union was finally adjusted and completed in 1543. The statute passed in this year directs that they shall be appointed by the Crown for the same time and no longer than in England, and their duties are declared to be similar to those of the English sheriffs in every respect.

#### PETITION TO HENRY VIII.

The Act of incorporation, which we have briefly examined, and from which some few extracts have been made, was certainly attended with considerable advantages to both nations; yet still many

<sup>1</sup> The first annual sheriff for Glamorganshire was Sir George Herbert of Swansea, in 1542; of Breconshire, Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml, in 1539; Radnorshire, John Baker of Presteigne, in 1544: There are many reasons to induce us to believe that the lord marcher of Brecon appointed his sheriff long prior to this act.

In a deed in the town coffer of the corporation of Brecon in 1800 (if it be not preserved with too much care), dated the eighth of Henry the Seventh, one of the witnesses subscribes "Jenkin ap Llewelyn ap Gwylim, Vice-comes;" whether he was for the borough or lordship is not so clear.



difficulties and inconveniences remained while the laws of the two countries differed so widely, and the theory as well as the practice varied in different parts of the Principality. In some places the ordinances of the lords marchers continued, in others the Welsh laws prevailed, and in others the English were introduced. These discordant systems produced so much confusion and disorder, that the inhabitants of Wales very wisely determined to draw up and present the petition to which we have before alluded. There is one compliment in the petition, so well and so elegantly expressed, that we cannot refrain from noticing it. After asserting that the Welsh like the Florentines and Spaniards *affected* to speak gutturally, "as believing words that sound so deep proceed from the heart," the petitioners add: "So that if we have retained this language longer than the more Northern inhabitants of this island, we hope it will be no imputation to us; your Highness will but have the more tongues to serve you; it shall not hinder us to study English, when it were but to learn how we might the better obey your Highness." To this address, promoted undoubtedly, if not dictated, by Sir John Pryce, of the Priory of Brecon, an eminent antiquary and a great favourite at court, Henry lent a willing ear; and therefore "at the humble suit and petition of his subjects of Wales (as the statute of the 34th and 35th of his reign recites) out of his abundant goodness," he caused several regulations to be enacted as to the mode and practice of administering the laws in Wales; the principal of which was the establishing and confirming the jurisdiction of the president and council of the marches of Wales, and also of the court of great sessions, appointed to be held in every shire twice a year before one justice; which court was to have a concurrent authority with that of the lord president and council, and to continue six days in every shire at each of such sessions. Some further regulations were also hereby ordained as to the sealing and issuing of writs, the salaries of the judges, the fees of the officers, and other matters which need not be specified.

#### SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Soon after the passing of this Act a difficulty arose about the payment of the wages of members of Parliament chosen for Wales. In England the common law of the land had long established the right of knights of the shires and burgesses to fees and wages, while attending their duty in Parliament. In 1543 it appears that this remuneration was fixed at four shillings a day to the former and 2s a day to the latter; but it should seem that it was doubted whether the newly established members for Wales, who of course could have no such prescription in their favour, had a claim to a similar compensation. The Act of the 35th of this reign, c. 2, therefore declared, that they were entitled to the same fees and wages as the representatives of the English counties and boroughs, and provided that the *writ de solutione feodi Militis Parliamenti* should issue to the sheriffs in Wales, to levy them whenever required.

#### SUBSEQUENT ENACTMENTS.

Though the regal dignity of the lords marchers had ceased and their power had been considerably curtailed and restrained by the laws of Henry the Eighth, their name and jurisdiction continued for some years after his time, for in the first and second of Philip and Mary we find "an Act to confirm the liberties of the *lords marchers of Wales!*" which recites the twenty-seventh of the late king, and proceeds to ratify the provisions there made in their behalf, and ascertains what forfeitures and benefits the lords marchers, spiritual and temporal, should have of their tenants; together with the mises, profits, liberties, and franchises appendant to their respective lordships.

The statute of the twenty-first of James the First, c. 10, is peculiarly gratifying to the feelings of a Welshman. It begins with the following recital: "Whereas the subjects of the country and dominion of Wales have been constantly loyal and obedient, and have lived in all dutiful subjection to the Crown of England," it then proceeds to recite the unprecedented clause in the thirty-fourth of Henry the Eighth, by which he was empowered to change, alter, order, publish and reform the law then passed at his pleasure, and that all such alterations, as well as any new laws which the king should make and publish in writing under his hand should "*be of as good strength, virtue and effect as if made by authority of Parliament!!!*" The statute of James then goes on to declare that it is manifest by long experience that the laws already ordained for the said country are, for the most part, agreeable to the laws of England, and are obeyed with great alacrity; for which reasons this most detestable clause is with great propriety repealed.

The president and council of the Marches of Wales retained their power until the epoch of the glorious revolution, when being deemed oppressive<sup>1</sup> to the subject and unnecessary to the due

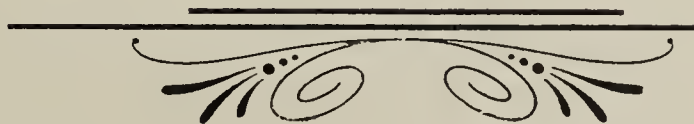
<sup>1</sup> Lewis (one of the Harpton family, who wrote the *Antient History of Britain*) asserts that this court was useful in its design and impartial in its practice; he says the fees were small and the delays less than in most other courts, but in contradiction to this assertion, it must be admitted, that the tradition of the country is with the legislature of William and Mary, for it has most assuredly left behind it "a wounded name" throughout the principality.

The reader who wishes to know more of this court will receive much information upon the subject, by perusing the instructions given by James the First to Lord Compton, president in 1625, and ten years afterwards by Charles the First to the Earl of Bridgewater, which are preserved in *Rymer's Fœdera*, vo. 17. p. 629, and vol. 19. p. 448.



administration of justice, this court was finally dissolved and the appointment of the sheriffs in Wales referred to the recommendation of the justices of the Great Sessions, and by a subsequent Act of the same reign, a certain clause in the statute of the 34th and 35th of Henry the Eighth, limiting the justices of the peace of Wales to eight in each county, is repealed, and the King empowered to augment their number as he might think convenient.

The statute of the seventh and eighth of this reign, chapter 38, enabled the inhabitants of Wales to dispose of their property and personal effects by will, thereby abolishing a certain ancient custom in the Principality, whereby widows and younger children of persons dying there, were entitled to a certain portion of the goods and chattels of their late husbands or fathers, called her, or their, reasonable part notwithstanding any previous disposal thereof by will or deed, and notwithstanding a competent jointure had been made by settlement. By this Act, the widows, children and other relations of a testator, are wholly barred from any claim on his personal estate, otherwise than is limited by will. Several other statutes have also been passed relative to Wales from the time of Henry the Eighth to the present day, but they are of little consequence in an historical view.





## CHAPTER II.

Language, Manners, Popular Opinions and Prejudices, Customs, State of Commerce, useful Projects, as Turnpike Roads, the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal and Railways.

IN general, the inhabitants of Breconshire, as well as the whole people of Wales, retain an enthusiastic veneration for their ancient language; we have this strongly exemplified in a tale of former times, and as it portrays the characteristic features of the Britons of the present day, we introduce it. The story is told by Giraldus Cambrensis. Henry the Second, when engaged in planning an expedition against South Wales, at a place called Pencadair in that country, consulted an ancient Welshman as to the strength and number of forces in that part of the Principality and the probability of his success against them. The old man thus pithily replied: "This nation, Oh King! may suffer much and be in a great measure ruined, or at least weakened, by your present and future attempts, as formerly it has often been, but we assure ourselves it will never wholly be destroyed by the anger or power of any mortal man, unless the wrath of heaven concur in that destruction; nor (whatever changes happen as to any other part of the world) can I believe that any other *language besides the Welsh* shall answer at the last day for the greater part of this corner of the globe." To the same effect prophesied Taliesin:

I ner a folant,  
Eu iath a gadwant,  
Eu tîr a gollant,  
On'd gwyllt Wallia.

Taliesin.

Still they shall chaunt their great creator's praise,  
And still preserve their language and their lays,  
But nought preserve of all their wide domains,  
Save Wallia's wild uncultivated plains.

Walters.

To this patriotic partiality for their language and *natale solum*, we may venture to attribute all that nationality of character which, surviving the ravages of time, still continues undiminished in the Cambro-British breast. It was the observation of a late respectable historian, "that nations which have been long seated in the same country and have had little intercourse with strangers commonly retain the same national character, manners and customs through a long succession of ages; they become proud of their antiquity, fond admirers of their ancestors, and fondly attached to their sentiments and prejudices, their follies, errors and vices not excepted." This is very remarkably the characteristic of the native yeomanry of Wales; as to those of superior rank or the constant inhabitants of towns, they are now by habit or education become so wholly English that no distinction is observable between them and their fellow subjects eastward of the Severn; but the sequestered peasant who rarely quits the vicinity of his mountain, who speaks no other language than his mother tongue, still adheres with infinite attachment to all the habitudes and customs of his ancestors. On all occasions he adopts their sentiments and dwells with fond delight upon the traditions of old times. Arthur, Llewelyn, and Glyndyfrdwy's lord will ever be the themes of Cambro-British admiration, whilst Offa, Edward, and Henry will never cease to create disgust. Uneducated in the refinements of that new philosophy which ostentatiously affects an universal citizenship, the Welshman thinks no country equal to his own, and even in the midst of poverty is happy to acknowledged as his proudest boast that he was born an ancient Briton.

Whilst every good his native wilds impart  
Imprints the patriot passion on his heart,  
And e'en the hills which round his mansion rise  
Enchance the bliss his scanty fund supplies.  
Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,  
And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms,  
And as a babe when scaring sounds molest  
Clings close and closer to his mother's breast,  
So the loud torrent and the whirlwind's roar  
But bind him to his native mountains more.

Goldsmith.

### CHARACTER OF THE WELSH.

It is but justice to observe that the character given of this people by certain learned and unlearned writers is very little to be depended upon; biassed by interest, warped by prejudices, or judging without a sufficient knowledge of their subject, they have been more studious to paint them



in unfavourable colours, than diligent to inquire as to real facts. William the Monk of Newbury, for instance, asserts that Wales produces a race of men barbarous in manners and faithless in principle, greedy of other men's blood and prodigal of their own, vehemently intent on rapine and bearing an innate hatred to the English nation." These are doubtless heavy charges, but the bitterness of spirit which suggested them is easily accounted for when we learn from Dr. Powel that this William (whom the Welsh call Gwilym bach or little Will) applied for the bishopric of St. Asaph upon the death of Geoffrey Arthur (surnamed of Monmouth) about the year 1165, but being disappointed and having met with a little rough treatment from David the son of Owen Gwynedd, he became violently enraged and "vomited forth" (says Powel) his spleen against the whole British nation, as the unprejudiced reader may soon discover from the virulence and acrimony of his writings.

Another writer, Giraldus Cambrensis, from whose connections and descent we might have expected better treatment, and a more honourable report, to please a monarch whom at the same time he affected to despise, insults his countrymen with charges as gross and as illiberal as they are unfounded; he talks of crimes "which God and men abhor," and ransacks the black catalogue of vices for the foul reproaches with which he brands them. But we have seen the man; with all his learning, he too had great and prominent faults. Had he taken the trouble of examining the triads or perusing the laws of Hywel Dda, he would have found ample reasons for retracting some of his assertions; he would have seen that, with all their peculiarities, in no country were the laws of morality *in general* more strongly inculcated, more strictly guarded, or the breach of them more severely punished than in Wales.

Pinkerton—the respectable and learned, yet eccentric Pinkerton—has sacrificed candour to unmanly prejudice and a blind attachment to a system of his own creation. The following is his mode of contrasting characters: "The Goths, a wise, valiant and generous race, were the friends of every elegant art and useful science, and when not constrained to arms by the inevitable situation and spirit of their society, they carried every art and science to heights unknown before, as the ancient Greeks and modern Europeans might witness. In wisdom (that perfection of human nature) ancient authors call the rude Goths, the first of nations. The Celts from all ancient accounts, and from present knowledge, were, and are a savage race, incapable of labour or even of rude arts; being indeed mere savages, *and worse than the savages of America*, remarkable even *to our own times*, for a total neglect of agriculture themselves, and for plundering their neighbours. The Irish Celts, Scotch Celts and the Welsh Celts have all alike a claim to the character, and when it begins to pass away, it is a sign that by intermarriage the Gothic blood begins to exceed the Celtic, and that the Celts are no longer Celts, though so accounted. The Celts *are savages, have been savages since the world began and will be for ever savages*; mere radical savages, not yet advanced even to a state of barbarism, and if any foreigner doubts this, he has only to step into the Celtic parts of Wales, Ireland or Scotland and look at them; for they are just as they were, incapable of industry or civilisation, even after half their blood is Gothic." He assumes that "even their language is derived from the English, and to say that a writer is a Celt is to say that he is a stranger to truth, modesty, and morality," and to complete the whole and crown this climax of abuse, he says, "what a lion is to an ass, a Goth is to a Celt."

But now the old fable inverted is seen,  
For the lion insults and the jackasses grin.

To abuse, indiscriminately thrown upon a whole nation, we will take the liberty of opposing an instance of individual virtue; it is a weak defence, and can only be justified in resisting an attack equally impotent.

#### STORY OF ERIPPE AND XANTHUS.

In the Erotica of Parthenius<sup>1</sup> we have the following proof of true greatness of mind *in a Celtic savage*:—"When the Gauls made an irruption into Ionia, and despoiled all the cities thereof, it happened that the sacred feast of Ceres was celebrated at Miletum, and the women of the place were assembled together in a temple at a short distance from the city. At that time a part of the barbarian army, separated from the rest, entered the Miletian territory, and making an unexpected attack took the women prisoners, in expectation that the Miletians would ransom them at a high

<sup>1</sup> Parthenius of Nice was a poet who lived in the beginning of Augustus's reign. He wrote a discourse from whence the above anecdote is taken; he dedicated it to Cornelius Gallus governor of Egypt. He wrote also the praises of Aretas his wife, and several other pieces. It is said he was made a slave in the time of the Mithridatic war, the Cinna emancipated him, and that he died in the time of Tiberius. If we believe what Suidas says of

him, he must have been very young when he was made a prisoner; for there were seventy years between this war and the time of Tiberius. Be this as it may, Virgil was his scholar and as it is said imitated him. In the proemium to the above story it is asserted that Aristodemus of Nysa in the first of his histories has preserved it; except that the names differ, he calls Erippe Oythimia, and the barbarian Gavaran.



price. Some of the barbarians took away with them such women as were skilled in domestic economy; of which number was Erippe the wife of Xanthus, a man of high authority, and of the first family of Miletum, who had left at home a son only two years old. Xanthus, doatingly fond of his wife, and dying to recover her, converted a considerable part of his property into money, and taking a thousand pieces of gold with him, he passed into Italy, from thence by the assistance of guides to Massilia, and from thence he reached the country of the Celts. At length he approached the house where his wife resided with a man, evidently of the first consequence among the Celts, and requested he might be admitted to lodge with them there. Upon the master of the house's acquiescing (for such is the hospitality of the people) he entered the house and beheld his wife, when she immediately threw her arms round his neck, embraced him and received him kindly. Soon after, Erippe told the Celt that the stranger was her husband, and that he came upon her account, and brought with him the price of her ransom. The Celt applauding the disposition of Xanthus, called his friends together, and treated him hospitably, and having prepared a banquet, placed his wife next to him: he then demanded by an interpreter at how much he valued the whole of his property. Xanthus replied, he valued it at a thousand pieces of gold. The barbarian on this ordered him to divide that sum into four parts, so that he might take three parts for himself, his wife and son, and leave the fourth for the ransom of his wife, who after they had retired to their chamber severely chid Xanthus, supposing he had not as much gold as he had promised to the barbarian, fearing he would get himself into danger from his inability to perform his undertaking. Xanthus assured her, that besides this he had yet another thousand pieces of gold concealed in the shoes of his servant, for he had not the least conception he should have found a barbarian so just, or that he would not have demanded an infinitely higher ransom. Upon the morrow, the wife most perfidiously betrayed this secret to the Celt, and insisted that he ought to suffer death for such a deceit; at the same time assuring him she loved him more than she did her country or her child, but that she utterly abhorred Xanthus. The Celt was so shocked at her relation that he was almost prepared instantly to put her to death. Afterwards, when Xanthus was ready to depart, he took an affectionate leave of him and sent him forward, following himself with Erippe; they were now arrived at the mountains of the Celtic country, where the barbarian said he would offer up a sacrifice before they parted. The victim then being set out, he ordered Erippe to lay hold of it, but no sooner had she seized it, as she had been accustomed to do, than with a drawn sword he stabbed her to the heart, and severed her head from her body, and in order to assuage the grief of Xanthus upon this melancholy event, he revealed to him the treachery his wife had meditated against him, and suffered him to depart with all his gold."

We leave the reader to make his comments on the story; fully satisfied the result (as far as it goes) will prove honourable to the Celtic character, for though it should be false, which we see no reason to assume, it will be recollected that even fables were always intended as illustrations of real life, and that this was written in an age when both Goths and Celts were stigmatised with the appellation of barbarians by their more polite neighbours, the Romans.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WELSH IN 1790—1810.

Such then were the sentiments and mode of thinking of some of our early ancestors. With respect to the manners, habits, and dispositions of the inhabitants of this county and the vicinity at the present day, it is much easier to say *what they are not*, than to describe them with accuracy and precision as they really are. We have no hesitation in asserting that the character of the Welsh, drawn by most of the<sup>1</sup> travellers of the latter end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries, had so little, if any, resemblance to the original, that it might as well be said to be

<sup>1</sup> In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March, one of these gentry, a man of eminence and knowledge in his profession, but who will not be persuaded that he does not excel in the sublime, though he has no taste for that style, further than dealing in the marvellous, tells us he was disturbed at Crickhowel by a number of people who were amusing themselves, as his hostess informed him, with hearing the trial of a woman accused of SORCERY. "The gentry and clergy (says he) of the county are all met together, determined to have a *complete bout* of it in the assembly room below (which by the bye is above stairs), a trial in the morning, a feast in the afternoon, and a ball in the evening!!" To say that there could be no such trial here, is almost superfluous, but the fact is, that there was no such accusation. There happened to be a monthly meeting of the magistrates of the hundred in the house when this traveller and his nephew came there, when a woman was brought before them, not for witchcraft, but for imposing upon the peasantry of the country and obtaining money under

pretence of fortune telling, and in the evening of the same day the gentlemen and ladies of the vicinity had appointed an assembly, where for ought we know some of these very justices may have joined in the dance after business was over.

Candour as well as justice to these writers, many of whom are respectable for their talents, as well as conduct in private life, must induce us to attribute the defects alluded to, to inattention, want of authentic information, or erroneous judgment, rather than to a wilful intention to deceive the public. The vagaries as well as the appearance of this *order* may be thus described:—

"The *insect youth* are on the wing  
Eager to taste the honied spring  
And glide along the plains at noon,  
Some lightly o'er the mountains skim,  
Some shew their gaily gilded trim  
Quick glancing to the sun."



a description of a Breton, as a Briton, of Walachia, as of Wales. To pourtray the peculiarities of disposition and manners of a country, to discover thoroughly those sentiments which for different reasons they wish to conceal, and to develop and display with correctness their turn of thinking, their passions and their prejudices, requires a greater degree of knowledge, and a longer residence among them than those flying philosophers chose to bestow upon these subjects, and above all, and as a preliminary to a more intimate acquaintance with the poor Celtic savages, it was absolutely necessary that the polite Goth or Saxon should understand the British language, and yet this was a talent few of them possessed, though almost all of them endeavoured to explain Welsh words as they picked them up on the highways, and some of them even to criticise upon them with great flippancy; in consequence of this defect, and the hurry of the tour, they were too apt to describe any incidents or occurrences which may appear extraordinary to them as characteristic of the country.<sup>1</sup>

The Welsh are proud, irascible, abrupt in address, hasty in their delivery, and sometimes in their conclusions; they are shrewd in argument, persevering, and indefatigable in pursuit of a favourite point, cautious and artful in their endeavours to conceal their object from the party from whom it is sought, and too fond of obtaining it by fraud or artifice: indeed, the difference betwixt wisdom and cunning does not seem to be thoroughly understood by *all* the inhabitants of this country. A victory in a Court of Law (and they have rather a litigious spirit) is thought more valuable, and the lawyer better esteemed by a certain description of people, when it is obtained by manœuvre or chicanery, than when it follows the weight of evidence or the fair merits of the case. For the English, they have long entertained an habitual, and almost inveterate aversion, and though it is now wearing off very fast, it is but too evident in their dealings and in their manner of speaking of them, “Sais yw ef syn”—(“He is a Saxon, beware,”)—is still frequently heard, when one of the natives of Wales perceives his countryman in treaty with an Englishman, and it is said that formerly the articles of consumption esteemed as the greatest luxuries in the Principality were, “caws wedi bobi, a Sais wedi grogi,” or, “toasted cheese and hung Saxon.”

The Romans have long been forgotten, and to the Normans they seem to have retained no enmity; indeed, they may almost be said to love them, for the same reasons that grandfathers are supposed to prefer their grandchildren to their immediate issue, because in them they see the enemies of their enemy. The treachery of the Saxons, whom the aboriginal Britons introduced into the island as friends and allies, and their cruelty in exterminating in cold blood the nobility of the ancient inhabitants (as is said to have been done on Salisbury Plain) still rankles in the bosoms of the indigenous sons of freedom; the connections and intercourse, however, of the two countries are now so numerous and so intimate, and the interests of both are so much blended, that the distinction of country will be thought of no more, and even at this moment it is confined to the secluded native of our wildest mountains, or to some unsociable beings who, unacquainted with the improved state of society, are prejudiced by tradition and are misanthropes from habit or constitution.

They are said to possess much curiosity, and an irresistible desire of prying into the designs, and learning the destination of travellers. There is nothing singular in this; all countries have this apparent curiosity, when they see or hear a being of a different garb or language from their own, and if a Welshman just caught and brought from the mountains were introduced into a levee at St. James, or into a rout among the fashionables of the metropolis, his country and his manners would be as much the objects of inquiry and curiosity as those of the English philosophers in the bogs of Wales.

One of the worst of their habits remains to be described and to be deplored; this is their savage mode of fighting. In England when a battle ensues the lowest of the mob has something like notions of honour, and roars out with sincerity, “Fair play,” but with us all advantages are fair in war, and a fallen adversary is at the mercy of his more fortunate competitor, while the bystanders seldom, if ever, interfere to prevent this unmanly application of the feet, and this ferocious mode of injuring, and sometimes of murdering a fellow creature. Death has frequently ensued in consequence of this cruel habit: it is rather extraordinary that it has not oftener followed these affrays; but the Welsh are not to be argued out of the practice, and their countrymen in general do not reprobate it.

#### MODES OF LIFE IN BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

It is difficult to say how far that want of cleanliness, with which the Welsh were frequently charged a century ago, was really imputable to them. After a more laborious investigation of the

<sup>1</sup> Thus one of these gentlemen, having seen a shoemaker who also sells books, after remarking upon the oddity of this combination of trades, hints that it is common in the principality; the fact is that this union of avocations is looked upon with equal surprise in Wales as it is in England, and is as seldom to be met with in the former country.



subject than has been employed by most of those who have thrown out the aspersion, we can form no decided opinion of their comparative merit or demerit in this respect. Glamorganshire, most certainly must be instantly acquitted of this offence, for such it is; the cots in the vales of that county were externally and internally neater than any other part of the kingdom, or at least we may venture to assert they were not excelled in that particular in any tract of equal extent in England. The hut indeed upon the wilds of Breconshire, where the door serves for the threefold purposes of an entrance, a window, and a chimney, was a miserable habitation, and we have seen most disgusting scenes of filth in narrow allies in our towns.

Whatever may have been the facts in Theophilus Jones' time, it can no longer be a matter of doubt that the habits of the people of the county are as clean as those of any other county. A generous application by public bodies of improved sanitary laws has led to considerable improvements in farmhouses and country cottages; and the "huts" mentioned by Jones are now rarely to be met with except as ruined memorials of the past; and there is hardly a village in the county which has not a plentiful supply of pure water brought through pipes to its centre. In the towns, efficient drainage systems have been carried out at great cost, and water laid on to every house. It is true there is still some cottage property which reflect discredit, but these tenements cannot long survive the demand for more commodious dwellings made by a people whose ideas of comfort have been advanced by a system of higher education.

One of the proofs of want of cleanliness in the Welsh (which has been strongly relied upon) is their being observed frequently without shoes or stockings. The objection is not new, it is as old at least as Henry the Fourth; "I am not afraid," says he, "of those barefooted rascals"—meaning, we presume, that all those who were barefooted must have been rascals or vagabonds. Under favour, "my very noble and approved good masters," the dirt thus thrown will not stick: this custom, however odious it may appear to those who live in courts and are strangers to the "short and simple annals of the poor," is productive of the reverse of what they too hastily presume. It originates in hard necessity and commendable parsimony; the rustic Welsh damsel who trudges to a fair or market barefooted, has no more pleasure in this kind of exercise than the courtier, though from habit the inconvenience diminishes. As soon as she approaches her journey's end the first stream near the town to which she directs her course is employed to wash off the dirt acquired in her walk; the shoes and stockings are then put on and worn till her return, are again taken off and the feet again washed before she proceeds to her house or her bed. Is there any want of cleanliness discoverable here.

The "rustic Welsh damsel" of 1900 is not to be found who would imitate her sister of 1800 by going to market in the manner described by Theophilus Jones. A few years ago it was the general custom for farmers' wives to find their way to the market towns on horseback, with their baskets affixed to the saddle, or perhaps to ride there on a gambo, but even this practice is fast disappearing. And it is far more general in 1905 to see the farmer and his family drive into the market towns seated in a well-appointed trap, cushioned, and in some cases with the wheels rubber-tyred; all of which shows the farmer to be a much more prosperous man than his ancestors and with a taste for luxury quite foreign to his grandfather's nature.

#### FOOD OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE.

The English travellers have described the Welsh farmers and peasants as hospitable, a virtue they certainly possess, but we owe this acknowledgment more to the politeness than the experience of our neighbours. For the reasons we have already explained, as well as from a want of frequent intercourse with foreigners, the inhabitants of the Principality have a shyness towards travellers, and a suspicion of the motives for their peregrinations generally prevails; but if the stranger is fortunate enough to meet with, or to be introduced to an intelligent and conversible person upon his entry into the country, who will recommend him in his route, his business is done, and this shyness instantly vanishes, when they are assured by one of their neighbours on whom they can depend that the history of their country, a desire to explore the beauties of nature, and an abstract knowledge of their manners are alone sought for. Under these circumstances the door is thrown widely open to the welcome guest and such fare as their houses afford is placed without grudging before him. Most of the middling farmers in Jones's time killed one beast in November or December, and a pig about Christmas which were salted and roared; this was the principal stock and capital for the ensuing year; a piece of this, out of the pot, formed one day's dinner; the broth in which it was boiled, with a desert of bread and cheese, washed down by water or whey, followed for the two or



three succeeding days, and flummery and milk and vegetables,<sup>1</sup> as potatoes, turnips, etc., with the usual assistance of the brown loaf and skim cheese, filled up the week. Butcher's meat fresh was rarely seen in small houses, and consequently when introduced was considered a luxury. In some parts of the county this description is, in some respects, still true; but a more liberal fare is in this year of 1900 partaken of by the farmer and his household. Cider and a light beer take the place of whey, which is not often met with.

#### THEIR WEARING APPAREL.

To the immortal honour of the commonalty of this county, let it be recorded that "they have a tear for pity and hearts as open as day for melting charity." To the tale of woe they never turn a deaf ear, nor is the humble door of the little farmer on the mountain ever shut against an object in distress. The wearing apparel of the men—in striking contrast to that worn in the early part of the 19th century, when it was described as such as "would not tempt even the avarice of the collectors for rag fair," is now neat and serviceable, and their Sunday dress is little inferior in style and quality to that worn by the tradesmen of towns. In some districts the grey or drab-coloured cloth is still worn, manufactured out of the wool of their own country sheep; these garments being made more for warmth than show. Whereas the dress of the women formerly consisted of a brown or blue jacket, check handkerchief or apron, man's hat, and flannel petticoat, they are now in 1900 as well versed in the latest fashions as are their sisters in the towns, and do not fail to avail themselves of opportunities for improving their appearance by those aids to nature so extensively advertised in the ladies' magazines, which they eagerly read. The *coffee house* of the males is no longer the blacksmith's shop alone, for the village inn shares their patronage, and as to the grist mills being the place of meeting of the females, we have now to deplore the fact that the county no longer grows corn in any quantity, and has therefore no further need for its old mills, many of which have fallen into decay. "At night," says Theophilus Jones, "while the women card wool, spin, or knit, those who have memory to preserve the tales of tradition and can relate the exploits of their ancestors, entertain the household with a recital of them or frighten their audiences with the eccentricities of a ghost who is generally sent in search of old iron to be thrown into a pond or river, and the phantom is thereupon appeased and departs to rest." This was true as late as thirty years ago, but a material change has come over the people of the country. It is true they are still, in many places, able to ply the knitting pins to good effect, and are not less industrious than their predecessors, but they can no longer fascinate or terrify their younger neighbours by a recital of the exploits of their forefathers, either in the quick or dead state, for they provide themselves, by perusing popular cheap novels, with an abundance of those sensations.

#### SOME SUPERSTITIONS.

We have been frequently told that the Welsh *are remarkably* superstitious, and that most, if not all of them, believe in the reality of apparitions. This is idle assertion and mere conjecture; they have no more superstition or credulity than falls to the lot of the humble inhabitants of an equal tract of land in any other part of the kingdom. They have, it is certain, their stock stories, their provincial demons and goblins and their characteristic phenomena, with whom many are acquainted, most wish to hear of, and some few believe; among the visionary beings, of whom tradition tells, and whom imagination creates, we frequently hear of the fairies, whom they call, "bendith eu mammau," and "y tylwyth tég," i.e., the blessings of their mothers, the fairies or fair household, meaning that they were fair of form, though most foul in mind. The stories related of these fairies as well as of witches who were supposed to play tricks with the milkmaid and spoil the butter, are similar to those heard in England.

Besides these diminutive representatives of man, the Welsh have also fiends peculiar to themselves, or at least generally forgotten by the majority of the inhabitants of the island; these they call *cwn Anwn* or Anwn's dogs. Anwn is translated by Owen, *unknown*, but it is rather *anwfn*, bottomless, and the prince of this country who is personified in the *Mabynogion* may be called the king of immensurable darkness, of that boundless void or space in which the universe floats or is suspended. This Being, say the gossips, is the enemy of mankind, and his dogs are frequently heard hunting in the air, some time previous to the dissolution of a wicked person: they are described in the beautiful romance to which we have referred, to be of a clear shining white colour with red ears. No one, with us, pretends to have seen them, but the general idea is that they are jet-black. To these dogs we conceive Shakespeare alludes in his "Tempest," when he talks of noise of hunters heard

<sup>1</sup> They had an universal and unconquerable aversion to mushrooms and looked upon the *gentry* (as they call them) who are fond of this excellent vegetable, as somewhat worse than swine in this particular, but these are now (1900) gathered in large quantities and brought to the markets for sale.



in the air, and spirits in the shapes of hounds, and not to Peter de Loier, "who (says Malone in a note) Hecate<sup>1</sup> did use to send dogges unto men to fear and terrify them, as the Greeks affirmed."

The corpse candle, which precedes the death of some person in the neighbourhood, and marks the route of the funeral from the house of the deceased to the church is a common topic among our peasantry, who believe it confined to the diocese of St. David's: a tradition is likewise very commonly received among them, which preserves the memory of certain extraordinary and wonderful feats of strength, performed by two oxen of prodigious size, called "ychain banog," or the oxen of the summits of the mountains. Davies in his *Celtic Researches* calls them "elevated oxen," and supposes them to allude to a sacrifice made by Hu gadarn or Hu the mighty; but whatever may have been the origin of the legends told of these oxen, the tradition seems to have been derived from the *Mythology of the Druids*, and in some measure confirms the antiquity of the Triads, from whence it is evidently derived.

#### CUSTOMS AT WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS.

The funerals in Wales, and the ceremonies preceding and following them, were in 1800 very similar to those of the Irish. Weddings were formerly attended with some very extraordinary customs, all of which are now disused in the towns and their vicinities, but in the hills some few still remain, particularly what is called the *bidding*, and we still occasionally see the herald of this event announcing it to the friends, relations and acquaintances of the bride and bridegroom. He bears in his hand a long hunting pole or staff, to the top of which is nailed or tied a bunch of ribbons of various colours; after greeting the family as he approaches the house, leaning upon his support like the *datceiniad pen pastwn* of old, he with great gravity and solemnity, addresses them nearly in the words mentioned in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, of December 1791, page 1103, with this difference, that in Breconshire, fish is not enumerated among the dainties of which the guests are invited to partake. The form of this invitation was printed as late as perhaps 1876, and the substance was a promise of cakes and ale, pipes and tobacco, chairs to sit down, etc., and an undertaking on behalf of the intending bride and bridegroom, that they will return the favour to such of their visitors as may thereafter claim it.

On the evening preceding the marriage, the bride's female friends bring her several articles of household furniture; this is called *stafell*<sup>2</sup>. On the morning of the ceremony, the lady affects coyness and sometimes conceals herself, but is *fortunately* always discovered and rescued from the party who are resolved to carry her off. Upon approaching the church, another scene of confusion and bustle ensues; it should seem now, that some of the company are determined to prevent the celebration of the marriage. One of her male friends, behind whom she is mounted on horseback, though generally without a pillion, makes many attempts to escape and to run away with her, but the companions of her future husband succeed in dragging her ("nothing loath") to the altar. Upon this occasion, the racings and gallopings on both sides are really alarming to bystanders unaccustomed to these exhibitions, and it is astonishing that more accidents have not happened in these sham fights and pursuits. Previously to the young couple's setting out for church, as well as at the public house in the village where they generally retire for a short time after the ceremony is over, the friends of both parties subscribe, according to their abilities, each a few shillings, and the sum is particularly noticed by one of the company; as it is expected to be returned to every person then present who may thereafter be entitled to it on a similar occasion, for this contribution has been long settled to be of the nature of a loan and has been sued for, and recovered at law. Lewis Morris<sup>3</sup> asserts, that instances have been known where two persons have made biddings under pretence of marriage when it was not intended, in order to get money, which they have divided amongst themselves. Such a stratagem has never come within our knowledge, nor indeed can it possibly be effected according to our custom; but that of Cardiganshire, which Mr Morris in part describes, may be different, and the money may be there collected on the day, or in the week preceding the marriage.

But it must be confessed that in the year 1900 the lads and lasses of our county are ever ready to go to the altar, or the registry office, without enacting a comedy of this kind for the amuse-

<sup>1</sup> The prince of Anwn and Hecate are man and wife, and both are the parents of this fable. For this and many other peculiarities relative to Wales Shakespeare was probably indebted to Sir John Price the antiquary, a native of Breconshire, who lived much in the English court in the reigns of Henry the Eighth and his daughter Elizabeth.

<sup>2</sup> Literally the chamber, but it means here furnishing or furniture for the chamber.

<sup>3</sup> *Gentlemen's Magazine*, Dec. 1791, p. 1103.



ment of their friends and neighbours. The custom of making wedding presents is substituted for the old-fashioned custom in vogue at the "bidding."

## AMUSEMENTS IN THE COUNTY.

The athletic exercises of throwing the bar, running, and wrestling, were in 1800 superseded by the amusement of hunting, ball playing, and drinking; in the two first, much activity is certainly required, but the last, frequently, if not always, succeeds to both, until the head and stomach become brimful, and the pockets completely empty. In the course of the carousal, what they call singing is introduced; generally two or three begin at different times and in different metres and cadences (for they cannot be called tunes), and proceed with great satisfaction to themselves, and apparently to the great delight of their parties; if a third or fourth strikes up the *harmony* continues. No one complains of interruption, and even if a trifling dispute arises, provided it do not proceed to blows, the minstrels persevere with admirable calmness and composure to the conclusion of their ballads in a tone of voice which is applied without variation to a psalm or a sonnet, a hymn or a march, and than which nothing can be more dissonant and disagreeable; the last note to every song, whatever may be the subject, is protracted, drawn, or rather *drawled* out to a considerable length, and is in what a musical friend calls a *monotonous minor lower key*. The beverage drunk at these meetings is principally ale, not above a fortnight old, and the malt highly dried; for they suppose pale beer must be weak, and consequently, as they think, not so strengthening and exhilarating as more potent liquor.

To the games played in 1800 have to be added in 1900 those of cricket, tennis, golf, and football, and in every part of the county various clubs have been formed for the promotion of these several games. Fortunately, "drinking" is no longer considered as an essential to happiness, and, whilst the custom still remains, including the "musical" part of it, the pastime is indulged in on rarer occasions than was formerly the case: especially is this so at our county fairs and markets.

## WELSH GENEALOGY.

Welshmen in the early part of the 19th century entertained a great dislike to surnames. When a complaint was made to a magistrate against a neighbour, his worship was entreated to grant a warrant against "Twm o'r Cwm," i.e., Tom of the vale. "Thomas of the vale (repeats the justice), what's his surname?" "I have never heard he had any other name," was the common reply. If the honest native be compelled reluctantly to adopt the English custom, and to introduce these expletives (as he conceives them) into his family, he and his children<sup>1</sup> were absolutely bewildered for the two or three next generations. Suppose his name to be Cadwaladr Griffith, his son in endeavouring to imitate the English fashion would call himself John Cadwaladr Griffith, and his son again would be known by the names of William John Cadwaladr Griffith; until fatigued and tired with dragging after him the long chain of cognomina and agnomina, his descendants submit to be called, a l'Angloise, Thomas Williams, by which surname his family was ever afterwards distinguished.<sup>2</sup>

Our Saxon and Norman conquerors do not seem to be aware of this difficulty, for they conceive that a fondness for a multitude of names is one of the characteristic foibles of Welshmen; when they describe them by Thomas ap Dafydd ap Sienkin ap Shon ap Thomas ap William ap Evan, etc. It is true genealogists, whose business it is to register descents, will inform us that John was "ap," or the son of Thomas, the son of William, the son of David, etc.; but in the common intercourse and concerns of life, they were only known to each other by their Christian names and residences. They have also sometimes been described by the beauties and imperfections of their persons, and sometimes by their professions or avocations. Another anomaly prevailed with respect to names and continued down to 1805 in the Western parts of Breconshire, particularly in Ystradgynlais and Ystradfellte. The wife retained her maiden name, and should the husband be called Thomas David and her father William John, she subscribes Margaret William formerly written Margaret, *vz.* William, Margaret verch or the daughter of William, and as late as the beginning of the eighteenth century, this custom prevailed even in the *town* of Brecon, for in the chapel of the men of Battle in the Priory Church we have "Here lieth the body of Elizabeth *Morgan* the wife of Lewis *Price* of this town who died 1704, aged 70."

## COMMERCE IN THE COUNTY.

As to commerce, although we have great advantages for manufactures, we can boast of few. From the latter end of the 16th to the beginning of the 19th centuries, great fortunes were acquired

<sup>1</sup> When this custom was first introduced, two brothers frequently adopted different surnames; for instance, John Thomas had two sons, Griffith and William, Griffith subscribed himself Griffith *John*, and the other brother wrote, William *Thomas*.

<sup>2</sup> Thus the Norman name of Bullen after being discontinued from Lawrence Bullen downwards, was resigned by the family, and the name of Williams substituted by Thomas Williams in 1613,

who was the son of William ap Phillip ap Richard ap John ap Lawrence Bullen. These are the present Abercamlais and Penpont families. So also the name of Boys, after ringing the changes of Jenkin William Boys and William Senkin Boys is now *steadied* into Williams of Velinnewydd, though the name of Jenkin still continues to be known among them as a christian name.



in Brecon and the vicinity by the manufacture of woollen cloths; the superior industry or capital of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and elsewhere, rivalled and at last put a stop to our trade. Few mills, therefore, are left to the county, and those are but small ones. The principal exports of the county are wool, butter, cheese; of the former a quantity is still spun and knit into stockings in the hundred of Builth and in different parts of the highlands. It was formerly the custom to drive some sheep, horned cattle, and swine to the markets of Worcester, London, Bristol, and other cities; but the dealers from these and other populous centres now come in great numbers to the county markets and fairs and buy considerable quantities, especially of sheep, very many thousands of which are reared at this time (1900) in the different parts of the county. There is also a large trade done in the county markets in poultry, eggs, etc., which are eagerly bought up by hucksters and carried off to the iron and coal works for sale there. This county for many years supplied the nearest seaports with considerable quantities of oak and other timber, for the purposes of ship-building, etc., and also for the use of the ironmasters; but the trade is now of little importance. Brecon, Builth, Hay, and Crickhowell depend very largely upon the trade done with the surrounding agriculturists and such county gentlemen as remain upon their estates and extend their support to the local tradesmen; but Brynmawr and Ystradgunlais may be said to be the headquarters of population dependent either upon coal mines or similar works. Almost every village in the county has now its "Emporium," where draperies, groceries, ironmongery, etc., may be obtained with as great facility as in the towns.

#### THE OLD CARTWAYS OF THE COUNTY.

Before we proceed to notice the construction of turnpike roads in the county, it may not be irrelevant to take a retrospective view of the different routes taken by the conquerors of the Principality, and by travellers through the county at different periods.

While this district was with propriety called Garthmadrin, and its inhabitants consisted principally of foxes, wolves, and beasts of prey, the low lands were almost covered or (as a modern historian said) *suffocated* with wood and brakes, and consequently almost impervious to travellers. When the Romans had cleared their way into the frontiers upon the defeat of Caractacus, Ostorius seems to have advanced some few miles further westward; though perhaps the utmost extent of his march in this direction was limited to the Gaer, three miles above Brecon, but the brave and indefatigable Julius completed, during the career of his victories and in the course of one life, what to common minds and more ordinary capacities, would have appeared to be the work of ages. The stratum or way known by the name of this commander pursued nearly the same track as the present turnpike road from Abergavenny to Brecon; from thence, instead of immediately crossing the Usk, it continued on the same side of the river to Gaer, and to the site of the present Aberbrân bridge or thereabouts; afterwards it again recovered the line of the present highway, and proceeded to Rhyd-y-briw, eight miles above Brecon, where instead of recrossing the Usk it passed the Senni near its fall into the former river, on the south side of which it pursued its course, as we conjecture, (for here it is merely conjecture) to Tal-y-sarn, Llys Brychan, in Duffrin Cydrich in Llanddoisant, and so on the same side of the river near Golden Grove, until it joined the Glamorganshire line of the Julia Strata near Carmarthen. Upon the departure of the Romans this road was destroyed, either by neglect or from political motives, so that the recollection of the work was barely kept alive by some of the Roman authors, until the persevering assiduity of British antiquaries of the two last centuries once more explored the vestiges, retraced the footsteps, and restored the long lost fortresses and stations of the earliest of our conquerors, throughout the whole extent of Britannia secunda.

#### THE ROADS OF THE SAXONS.

The roads made by the Saxons in their incursions were hastily formed, badly executed, and as deficient in plan and system as their modes of warfare; sometimes we see them entering the confines of Breconshire, on the south-east from Monmouthshire, at other times their inroads were made through Herefordshire, and at others through Shropshire on the north-east. But wherever there barbarians penetrated, they left a gloomy solitude behind them, while deserted villages and the ashes or ruins of prostrated habitations, marked their progress and wrote the history of their expeditions, in characters too legible to be mistaken; for as plunder and not permanent subjugation was their principal object, it formed no part of their system, if such they could be said to possess, to facilitate the intercourse of travellers, or even the march of armies through the Principality. They were governed only by momentary rapacity or sanguinary revenge, and looked not for future advantages to their posterity, consequently whenever we hear of Rhyd-y-Saison, Bwlch-y-Saison, etc., the Saxon's ford, the Saxon's pass, etc., we must not conclude that there were roads near them, but that those situations only preserve the memory of the irruptions, perhaps of a victory gained near the spot by these depredators. But though the points of attack were thus numerous and uncertain, their principal and



common line of march was through Hereford, from thence called Henffordd and Henffordd y Saison, the old road of the Saxons; from this county they entered Radnorshire, continuing on the north side of the Wye till they came to Builth, where there was a bridge, we know, as early as the thirteenth century, and probably there was one of much earlier construction. Here they usually crossed the river and proceeded on the south side of the Irvon to Llwydlo-fach and into Carmarthenshire.

During the reigns of the two first Edwards, this seems to have been the principal road through Breconshire, and in the course of this period, several commissions issued, directed to the servants and ministers of the English Crown, "*ad prosternendas quercus*," in the hundred of Builth, for the accommodation of travellers; for this labour as well as for the protection of their persons a tax was levied at Builth Castle (which from this circumstance may be said to be the first *turnpike house* erected in Breconshire), called Porthant Herwyr, or a tax on alien merchants or drovers. Of this contribution, at first levied *ad libitum* by the lord marcher, the King of England did not scruple to accept a proportion. It was paid in Theo. Jones' time, and for many years afterwards, under the name of drift toll, but the amount was ascertained and limited in the time of Charles the Second. In the reign of Edward the Third, the other nearly parallel road, through the great forest of Brecknock, appears to have been newly planned or in a great measure to have been directed by some tracts or remains of the Julia Strata then visible, and perhaps about this time the little fortress of Rhyd-y-briw was built for the protection of passengers, and garrisoned by some troops of the lord of Brecknock. Before this time a great part of this tract was inhabited by outlaws and by those native inhabitants of the country, who being driven into the wilds and fastnesses of Breconshire, on the conquest by Bernard Newmarch, occasionally poured down like a torrent into the low lands, and ravaged the possessions of the tenants and dependants of the Normans; these irruptions made travelling through this tract dangerous. We therefore find that the usual route of those whom war or business led through Breconshire previous to this time, was through Monmouthshire into the vale of Grwyne-fawr, to Talgarth, Llanddew, to Tair derwen, crossing the Builth road to Brecon, and leaving that town one mile and a half to the south, thence to Aberyscir, Trallong and Llywel. On this road, and soon after it enters Breconshire, Richard Earl of Clare was murdered by the instigation of Iorwerth of Caerleon, as the English nobleman was foolishly piping along, after having imprudently dismissed his soldiers and attendants, and by this road Giraldus Cambrensis travelled from his house at Llanddew, to St. David's.

Though those three roads continued accessible to travellers for several centuries, they were little more than bridle ways, or as Mr Valentine Morris, of Piercefield, very humorously called them, "*ditches*." They were barely wide enough to permit even one carriage to be dragged along, and such was the difficulty and delay in travelling over the best of them until the middle of the 18th century, that Sir John Phillips, in his journeys from Picton to attend his duty in Parliament, was with difficulty able with a coach drawn by *six* horses, to travel from Llandovery to Hay, a distance of only thirty-five miles, in the course of two long summer's days. No waggons or chaises let for hire were seen on the road, and those articles of trade for which we were indebted to the London and Bristol markets, were either brought in small carts or low sledges or else in panniers or barrels on horses' backs.

#### ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

About the middle of the eighteenth century some gentlemen feeling the inconvenience arising from the want of good roads, proposed to repair and widen the old lanes, by individual subscription, and in September, 1755, the Breconshire Agricultural Society agreed that if any parish would raise a sum over and above the statute duty (not exceeding twenty pounds) toward the repairs of any part of the post-roads through the county leading from the county of Caermarthen to the county of Hereford, the inhabitants of such parish should receive from this society one half of such sum, to be laid out for the repairs of such road, such work to be performed before November, 1756.

These exertions were attended with considerable effect. Four of the parishes<sup>1</sup> on the post-road appear to have availed themselves of the liberality of this society. A stage coach having been established to run from Brecon to London, once a week, through Abergavenny, Monmouth, and Gloucester, in 1757 they extended the same premiums to the parishes repairing *the coach road over the Bulch hill*, and to the road in Llangynidr leading to coal and lime, as they allowed towards the improvement of the post-roads. A general surveyor of the highways throughout the county was appointed, at a salary of twenty pounds per annum; rewards were given to parish officers employed thereon to encourage them in their activity, allowances made towards hedging and fencing to those who gave their ground for widening them, and various other improvements were suggested and acted

<sup>1</sup> These parishes were Llanddew, Llanspyddid, Hay, and St. David's in Llanfaes.



upon by this truly public spirited association. But patriotic and laudable as these efforts most certainly were, the subscription of individuals was found totally inadequate to answer the desired ends. In 1767, therefore, resort was had to Parliament, and an Act passed to repair and widen the principal roads in the county of Brecon. Under the authority of this law the Commissioners erected toll gates and turnpike houses, and proceeded to put the spirit of the Act into execution; to enable them to carry their design into effect, they were empowered to borrow £10,000 on the credit of the tolls, and to take such other steps as might be expedient and conduce to the furtherance of the work.

Under these and other laws which followed at different times considerable improvements were made in the direction and formation of the roads, the convenience and comfort of travellers promoted, and the profits of the produce of the earth were increased rapidly. For many years after the establishment of the stage coach by Mr. Harper of the Golden Lion, it continued to run only to Brecon; soon after the turnpike road was finished it was extended to Carmarthen, and upon the adoption of Mr Palmer's plan an attempt was made to bring the mail by coach through Hereford and Hay, but some real or imaginary difficulties occurring in this route, it took the road through Gloucester Monmouth, Abergavenny, Brecon and Carmarthen, to Milford, every night in the week, excepting on Tuesday, and Friday on the return. Several waggons were also established for the carriage of heavy articles to and from Brecon and the other towns in that country, which set out and returned every week, so that a comparative bustle and activity prevailed there.

And here let the reader who desires to pursue this subject refer to the Records of Quarter Sessions dealing with roads, in the first Volume at page 149.

#### THE BRECON AND ABERGAVENNY CANAL.

In 1792, the Monmouthshire Canal Navigation Company was authorised by Act of Parliament (32 Geo. 3, c. 102) to make a navigable canal from Pontnewynydd to Newport and other subsidiary works. They were authorised to supply the Canals from any river within 2,000 yards of their works, and to construct reservoirs, doing as little damage as possible. The water for the main canal was to be taken from the Afon Llwyd stream, that for the supply of a subsidiary canal from the River Ebbw.

In the following year (1793) the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Navigation Company were empowered (33 Geo. 3, c. 96) to make a navigable canal from the town of Brecon to a junction with the Monmouthshire Canal near the town of Pontypool, at a place called Pontymoile, which canal would open an easy communication between the town of Brecknock (always so spelt in the Act), the town of Abergavenny, the county of Monmouth, and the seaports of the Kingdom. The Company was further authorised to make railways and roads for the passage of wagons from the canal, and so open communication with various iron works and collieries, and with extensive tracts of land abounding with iron, coal, lime-stone, and other minerals.

The names of the proprietors included those of the Duke of Beaufort, of Theophilus Jones, and apparently of all men of light and leading in the county, many of whose descendants are still with us, while others have passed into the realms of the forgotten. These were united into a company with powers to make and maintain the canal, and specified roads and railways; also to make roads and railways to any place within the distance of eight miles from the intended canal, a very wide power which has proved of use in the opening up of mineral wealth. They had the widest powers of taking any water within 2,000 yards of their undertaking, making satisfaction to the owners for all damages sustained by reason of the powers given.

The Canal should not exceed 26 yards in breadth in ordinary places, nor five feet in depth below the present surface of the ground, but for turning places, wharves, etc., a breadth of 80 yards was given.

All persons residing within the Counties of Brecknock and Monmouth, having an estate of £100 a year in land within the counties, or an equivalent in money, were appointed Commissioners to determine all questions arising between the Company and landowners, with very wide powers of arbitration. They might at any time settle what money should be paid by the Company as recompense for any damages which shall at any time be sustained by bodies corporate, or other person, being owners of or interested in any lands, waters, etc., by reason of the making or maintaining the canal and other works. The Company must also make convenient watering places for cattle where the cattle are by the canal deprived of those they had been accustomed to use, and to supply the same with water, and where the works interfered with any river or water course hitherto used for



supplying any mills or dwelling houses, or watering any farms near to the Canal, then the Company should convey to those places water for those purposes at their own charge. There were also many other powers to protect neighbouring landowners from flood, accident, and other dangers.

The Company were empowered to raise a capital of £100,000 in shares, the value of which should not exceed £100, and of which no one person should hold more than 50. The Company also had power to raise a further sum of £50,000 amongst themselves. Then follow at great length regulations as to ways and means, meetings, and rates and tolls, both on canal, road, and rail, with many rules for the proper user of the Canal, with penalties on persons who shall leave drawbridges open, or obstruct the navigation, or leave open wantonly or carelessly any lock, paddle, valve, or clough belonging to the Canal, so as to mis-spend or waste the water, in that case the offender shall pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

It was further lawful for the Company to make navigable cuts to any place within four miles of the canal. Proprietors of mines, too, may make similar cuts, so that the same be done without diverting any water which shall be necessary for supplying the canal, and so that the said persons shall (if thereto required by the Company) erect a stop gate on every such cut to prevent the water being drained from the Canal.

Owners of land may erect wharves on their lands and, apparently, charge rates for the use thereof. The exclusive right of fishery is reserved to the owners of land through which the Canal passes, and, where the Canal passes through a Common, to the lord of the manor. These privileged persons have, moreover, the right to use pleasure boats not exceeding five feet in breadth and twelve in length, free of toll, so as they do not pass through locks, and the owners make a convenient tie by, and do not suffer their boats to be moored in the Canal itself.

And whereas, in consideration of the advantages to be derived by the Company of the Monmouthshire Canal Navigation from the junction of the two Canals, they have agreed to make the payment hereinafter mentioned to the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Company: the said Monmouthshire Company shall pay to the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Company the sum of £3,000, and shall not take for any merchandise, &c., which shall pass in boats to or from the said Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal any greater rate of tonnage than shall be taken by the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Co. for any merchandise passing on the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal. What the advantages gained by the Monmouthshire Company were is not stated; possibly increased traffic was looked forward to, or perhaps the water feeder may have been in the minds of the contracting parties.

In view of many vexed questions outstanding in 1899 the section following is of interest: "Limitations of Actions.—If any action shall be brought against any person for anything done in pursuance of this Act, every such action shall be commenced within six calendar months after the fact committed."

The Act has been quoted, it is hoped, at sufficient length to give an accurate idea of the powers, rights, and obligations of the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Co. It is difficult now (1900) to obtain a copy of the Act, and in future years that difficulty may increase.

The first object to which the Company directed its attention was the construction of a tramway to bring coal and iron into the Valley of the Usk at Llangrwyne, through a rugged dell called Cwm-clydach to the mountain at a place called Rhyd y blew or Hairford. The road was finished in the spring of the year 1796. It was nine miles and six furlongs in length. The cutting of the Canal was commenced in April, 1796, and was navigable to Llangynidr Bridge, a length of eight miles and a half, in November, 1797. The remaining ten miles thence to Brecon was completed in December, 1800, and on the 24th of that month the first boat-load of coal was brought to that town from Gellifelen Colliery in Llanelly, being part of the Brecknock possessions of the Duke of Beaufort. Repeated slips impeded the navigation for the next two or three years and added enormously to the cost of construction.

The £150,000 was now entirely expended, and the money authorized as capital having been used up, it became necessary to again apply to Parliament to enable the Company to borrow a sum not exceeding £80,000 by optional loans (Act 1804, 44 Geo. 3). At this time, the workmen were employed at Llanfoist, near Abergavenny.

As to pecuniary success much difference of opinion existed, but the promoters congratulated themselves on one advantage hardly to be too highly estimated, namely, the unfailing supply of water in the driest seasons; in the autumn of 1803, when other canals suffered from want of water, the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal was copiously supplied and its banks full. The tonnage on the



finished part of the Canal from Lady-day, 1803, to Lady-day, 1804, amounted to £3,007, almost exclusively coal and iron. Merchandise could not reach the Canal, the junction with the Monmouthshire Canal not being then effected. The Canal contains four feet six inches of water, and is ten yards wide, being calculated for the navigation of boats carrying a load of 25 tons. The voyage from Clydach to Brecon took one day in summer and two in winter. From Brecon to Llangynidr, a distance of ten miles, there were six locks and a fall of 59 feet 8 inches; thence to the junction with the Monmouthshire Canal, being about 14 miles, there is no lock, but on the Monmouthshire Canal between the junction, the distance being only  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles, there are 34 locks and a fall of 340 feet. Thence to the Bristol Channel there is a further fall of 12 feet; so, calculates Theophilus Jones, with remarkable accuracy, Brecon is 411 feet above the level of the sea.

Such was the Canal, described at the period of its construction, as a great county work, with many hopes for the future. It has passed from Company to Company, with objects of their own far different from the loyal patriotism of its original promoters, whose first general assembly was held at the Golden Lion in Brecknock on the 16th May, 1793. Commercially it proved a failure and a source of heart-burning and bitterness to the very town it was intended specially to benefit.

In 1835 (5 and 6 William 4th, c. 75) The Newport Dock Company were incorporated, and authorised to construct the Newport Docks; they took powers to draw their chief water supply from the river Ebbw, from which an aqueduct was contemplated, but not constructed till 1854. They were also authorized to make a communication with the Monmouthshire Canal, and take the superfluous water therefrom for their own purposes, and for the use of certain wharves in connection with their docks.

The effect that this arrangement was to have upon Brecon and its Canal was probably not at the time apparent. The Monmouthshire Canal was, it is true, connected with that from Brecon to Abergavenny and received some water from it, but it had independent sources of supply, and the connection of the Monmouth Canal with the Docks seems to have created no alarm. Newport was a small place, the dock now known as the old dock, completed in 1842, was but four and a half acres. In 1858 it received an addition of  $7\frac{3}{4}$  acres, thus being increased to thrice its original size, while the increasing trade has since necessitated the building of the Alexandra Docks (opened in 1875) with a water area of 25 acres, and with 400 acres of land reserved, suitable for the construction of wharves and warehouses, and for the extension of the Dock area.

At the commencement of the last century, Newport was a village of 1,135 inhabitants, not so large as Hay or Builth; in 1831, the census before the Dock Company was formed, the population had increased to 7,062, a town about the size of Brecon. Twenty years after, the population exceeded 20,000, and in 1891 the population was 54,707, considerably more than that of the administrative county of Brecknock. In 1882, 2,143 vessels in the foreign trade cleared outwards, with an aggregate of over a million tons burden, while of the coasting trade there entered 8,020 vessels of 1,048,000 tons, and the trade is continually increasing, there being a larger iron trade than at any port in the Kingdom.

It was about the time of the opening of the first Newport Dock in 1842, at the instigation of several traders whose boats passed along the canals, and who complained that the lowness of the water impeded their traffic, that the Brecon Canal Company are said to have increased the size of the feeder from the Usk above Brecon. No remonstrance or objection seems to have been made. The cause of the low state of the water in the Canal then complained of, may very well have been due to the great quantity of water now for the first time let out of the Monmouth Canal for the use of the newly constructed dock.

In 1845 (8 and 9 Vic., c. 159), the Monmouthshire Company were authorised to construct a railway from Newport to Pontypool, and when the line was finished, to abandon so much of their Canal as was above the junction with the Brecon Canal; in lieu thereof to make culverts to convey the water from the Afon Llwyd stream and the reservoirs to their Canal below the junction. To the Brecon Company were preserved all their rights. In the year 1849 the Monmouthshire Company did abandon so much of their Canal as lies between Pontnewynydd and Pontypool, and in 1853 the section between Pontypool and the junction with the Brecon Canal was also given up. They did not, however, maintain the connection between their Canal and their former independent sources of water supply, but after this date depended entirely on the water flowing through the Brecon Canal to their junction, to supply the Monmouth Canal below the junction.

In 1854 (17 and 18 Vic., c. 185) the Newport Dock Company obtained powers to increase their works (s. 26) and to construct an aqueduct from the river Ebbw, and also to divert the water of the Monmouth Canal. Their former Act had been limited to the superfluous water; now all the



water of the Monmouthshire Canal was available for dock purposes, the Monmouthshire Company having abandoned their independent sources of supply, the whole of the water was of Brecknock origin. The Brecon Company thus found that a larger quantity of water was drawn down from their Canal through the Monmouth Canal to the prejudice of their own navigation. They threatened to prevent water passing from their Canal to that of the Monmouth Company. At the junction of the two canals were lock gates, and a lock-keeper's house, at which a clerk of the Brecon Company resided; the gates were dilapidated, but the Brecon Company now repaired them. They then remonstrated with the Dock Company, who replied that they took no more than necessary waste, but obtained their supply from the river Ebbw. This river frequently runs dry, and in fine weather during the autumn of 1856 the Brecon Company let out their water for a fortnight for repair; whereupon the Secretary of the Dock Company is said to have written to the Clerk of the Brecon Canal begging him to have the water let in again at once, as the Dock Company were in "a deuce of a mess for want of it."

To this point the history is chiefly taken from a case prepared for the Brecon Canal Company who desired to know (1) whether the Monmouthshire Company were entitled to part with any water beyond waste from the locks of their Canal; (2) whether the Brecon Company might put a level lock between the two canals and prevent water passing from Brecon to Monmouth Canal; (3) whether in such case if any delay took place the Brecon Company or the freighter would have any remedy; (4) whether the Brecon Company are entitled to take as much water as they can from the Usk at Brecon, and, by connivance with the Monmouthshire Company, to sell such as is not required for their traffic, to the Dock Company for the supply of their docks at Newport.

The replies to these questions, made by Mr. J. W. Phipson, were (1) that the Monmouthshire Company were not entitled to part with water other than the waste from working their locks; (2) that the level lock was not allowable, the Act contemplating the junction of two canals, and the use of water may have been an inducement to the Monmouthshire Company to consent to the junction (and, it may be added, to make a free gift of £3,000); (3) that no one could sue the Monmouthshire Company for delay due to the action of Brecon; (4) that the Brecon Company might not take from the Usk an unlimited supply for the purpose of sale to the Newport Dock Company. Whilst the operation produced no evil consequences to any proprietor on the Usk probably no difficulty would arise. It was by no mean uncommon for Canal Companies to sell their surplus water; but in strictness it was thought that the Parliamentary right of the Company was limited to waste water required for navigation. The traffic on the Brecon Canal had now become much diminished, and the Company were unwilling to embark in expensive litigation to protect their rights. Moreover, the interchange of traffic was of vital importance to the Brecon Company. So nothing was done.

In 1865 a solution was found for the difficulties between the two Companies. Parliamentary powers were obtained enabling the Monmouthshire Company to buy the Brecon Canal; all the rights, authorities, and agreements (s. 27) vested in the Brecon Company were on the completion of the sale to be exercised by the Monmouthshire Company. A clause was inserted (28) for the protection of salmon by means of a grating at the entrance of the Newton Mill feeder (a well-meaning enactment, but it seems to have authorized the existing aperture, which, being about three feet square, is capable in dry weather of swallowing all the water in the river). The purchase was concluded, and the Brecon Company obtained release from an unprofitable speculation, which was now scarcely of use to Brecon, the town being about this time placed in railway communication with Swansea, Merthyr, Newport, Hereford, and the North. The purchase price, £24,750, brought them £25 per share, which share had been previously almost unsaleable, though some few had been parted with at £8 each.

Much of the foregoing has been abstracted from a second case stated for counsel on behalf of the Board of Conservators of the river Usk, riparian owners, and the Corporation of Brecon. The sale had been chiefly effected by the late Mr. Crawshay Bailey, senr., and Mr. John Lloyd, senr., of Dinas; Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart., (1st Baron Glanusk) being also a director of the Company. Shortly after the sale of the property by Mr Lloyd, senr., and others, an opinion was asked of Mr. Manesty, the case being put somewhat shortly. It was apparently on behalf of the Usk and Ebbw Board of Conservators, and is endorsed "John Lloyd, junr., 1867, Nov. 19." Mr. Manesty, "on the facts stated," was of opinion that the Company could not be prevented taking water from the Usk at Newton Mill, the quantity of water which they at present take, notwithstanding it is more than is required for their navigation. If the culvert of supply had not been enlarged for twenty years then, having regard to the twenty years' user, it seemed to him that the Companies had acquired the right as against the Conservators of the Usk and Ebbw and against the riparian proprietors, to take into the Canal from the Usk as much water as will flow the existing culvert.



at Newton Mill, and that it was not competent for riparian owners to complain of the use which the Company afterwards made of that water, provided they fulfilled the obligations imposed upon them by the Legislature as regarded navigation, &c.

This opinion not proving satisfactory to the proposed litigants, in the following year an amended case was prepared for counsel, and they added to it a schedule of Canal Companies and individuals alleged to be illegally receiving a supply of water from the Usk at Brecon by means of the Brecon Canal, viz., J. Prothero, Brecon, pipe to saw mills; Sir J. Bailey, Crickhowell, 6-inch pipe to turbine (the above are from the Brecon Canal); Great Western Railway, 8-inch and 4-inch pipes to engine sheds at Pontypool; Monmouthshire Canal, total supply; Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company, pipes for engine sheds at Pontypool; Oakfield Iron Works, Cwmbrân, 6-inch pipe; Newport Docks, water *ad libitum*. Two cases, practically identical, were prepared in the year 1868 and laid before Mr J. H. Lloyd and Mr. Paterson, in which counsel were asked to advise the Board of Conservators, the riparian owners, and the Brecon Board of Health, (1) whether the Monmouthshire Company (as successors to the Brecon Company) are justified in withdrawing from the River Usk any larger supply of water than is required for the purposes of the navigation of the Canal from Brecon to the Pontymoile junction; (2) whether the Monmouthshire Company, having voluntarily abandoned their own supplies of water, have derived the right either by previous user, or by the purchase of the canal of the Brecon Canal Company, of withdrawing water from the Usk for the supply of their [original] canal between Pontymoile and Newport; (3) if so, whether they are justified in withdrawing from the Usk any larger supply of water than is required for the purposes of the navigation of the canal from Brecon to the Pontymoile junction, and of the canal from that junction to Newport; (4) whether the right to withdraw water from the Usk at Brecon by the means of the Brecon Canal in excess of that required for the navigation of the Brecon Canal, and also of the Newport Canal, is at all affected by the length of time during which they may have supplied the Newport Docks or other companies or individuals with water from this canal; (5) whether there is any difference between that portion of the water which they convey to the Newport Docks and that which they sell to other companies or to individuals; (6) if the Monmouthshire Company are not justified [in the above acts] what is the proper proceeding to prevent the excessive abstraction of water from the Usk and the continuation of its unfair application; (7) by whom such proceedings should be taken, whether by the Board of Conservators, the Corporation of Brecon, or the riparian owners; (8) against whom should such proceedings be taken, the Monmouthshire Company, the Newport Dock Company, or the companies or persons who take the water from the canal.

The opinion of Mr. J. Paterson bears date October 3rd, 1868; that of Mr. J. H. Lloyd, November 7th. The learned counsel agree in points 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Paterson writes: "1, 2, 3, 4—I am of opinion that the Monmouthshire Canal Company are not entitled to divert any of the water of the Usk except for the purpose of maintaining the navigability of the Brecon Canal between Brecon and Pontymoile. The facts of their having purchased the Brecon Canal does not enlarge their rights *quoad* the Brecon Canal, which must still depend on the Brecon Acts so far as they are unrepealed. Whether the Monmouthshire Company have in point of fact used the water of the Usk to feed the Monmouthshire Canal and Newport Docks, and whether they have done so for a longer or a shorter time, or with or without the consent or acquiescence of interested parties, is immaterial. Their rights and duties are prescribed by their several Acts of Parliament, and no consent of parties can be set up to justify any violation of a statute of this kind." With regard to 4, Mr. J. H. Lloyd adds "as against individual riparian proprietors, a sort of prescriptive right might be acquired by long user, though I think it very doubtful whether in this particular case it could be successfully set up; but if the effect of the abstraction of the water in quantity sufficient to supply the Newport Docks is to diminish the volume of water so as to affect the public by creating what would be regarded as a nuisance, it is clear that no length of time would legitimate such a user, and no acquiescence preclude the application of a remedy." As to 5, Mr. J. H. Lloyd writes: "The case against the Monmouthshire Company is of course stronger and more free from question in the case of water supplied by them to millowners and others for purposes unconnected with the navigation, and the fact that they do so supply it to millowners and others should be a prominent item in the complaint against them." Dealing with question 6, Mr. Patterson wrote: "I think that the proper remedy is to apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ of mandamus to compel the Monmouthshire Canal Company to erect good and sufficient locks at Pontymoile for the purpose of regulating the discharge of water from the Brecon Canal occasioned by the passage of boats thereupon into the Monmouthshire Canal and *vice versa*." Mr. J. H. Lloyd wrote: "On the matter of procedure I am less competent to advise; it will be desirable to consult an equity barrister." As to 7, Mr. Paterson said: "Any riparian owner of the Usk between Brecon and the tidal-flow has a right to apply for



a mandamus for each and all have a good cause of action against the Monmouthshire Company for wasting water over and above the requirements of the Brecon Canal proper. The prosecution of the remedy is a proper subject for combination between the various riparian owners and others interested, but it will be sufficient to select any one riparian owner as the prosecutor of the mandamus." Question 8, as to this he replied: "The remedy must be taken against the Monmouthshire Company. With regard to the selling of Brecon Canal water to individuals, each riparian owner has a cause of action against the Monmouthshire Company for granting away the water to third parties, and the remedy to prevent this is either an injunction in the Court of Chancery to restrain the company so selling, or an action on the case at common law coupled with a claim of injunction. Probably the mandamus to compel the stop gate would be the best remedy, at least to begin with, for the Monmouthshire Company would no doubt soon discover their error and voluntarily discontinue supplying the parties with water."

Mr. J. H. Lloyd in his answer to query 6, having disclaimed the competency to advise on procedure, a further case was submitted to Mr. Paterson, in November, 1869, on difficulties which arose. A combination to a limited extent was at that date entered into. The Corporation of Brecon, acting as the Local Board of Health, did not feel inclined to take any active part inasmuch as their drains were carried into the river (since 1869 this has been altered and a sewage farm formed at Brynich, —and it might very well be contended that the offensive state of the Usk during the summer of 1869 was due as much to their drains as to the abstraction of water, but (say they for whom the case was drawn—no names given) the drainage would have done no harm if the water had not been abstracted. Lord Tredegar, the principal riparian owner near Brecon, was the chairman of the Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company. Sir J. R. Bailey (the writer of these notes), the next largest riparian proprietor, was a nephew of the vice-chairman (the late Mr. Crawshay Bailey, senr.) and prizes his six-inch pipe from the canal. Mr. John Lloyd, senr., of Dinas, hesitated because, as one of the Committee of the Brecon Canal Company, he winked at the undue abstraction of water in his time, and because he was instrumental in selling the concern to the Monmouthshire Company. The Duke of Beaufort objected to be plaintiff as being a duke. Mrs. Gwynne Holford objected as being a lady, and the trustees of Mr. C. H. Leigh as being trustee only for a minor. Mr. William de Winton appeared objectionable as he had let the fishing. And these were all the owners to speak of for twelve miles below the town of Brecon. There is but one mill in that length, and that owned by Sir J. R. Bailey. The occupier said he was much injured by the abstraction of the water, having been able to work half-time only during the droughts of 1869, but his landlord did not wish him to move. This mill is so small that it seems never to have been let separate, but jointly with the adjoining farm of Millbrook.

A correspondence took place between solicitors, but the matter was carried no further. And so the contemplated action of 1869 went to sleep again. It was revived in 1899, when the evil was again increased, the Swansea authorities having, under their Water Act, taken part of the head waters of the Usk to supply their town. But it has not yet come to a trial. There have, however, been some alterations made to the weir immediately above the intake to the canal, and it is claimed for this arrangement that there is now a better flow of water into the Usk from Newton Pool during the summer months than was before possible. From time to time attempts have been made to revive the boat traffic upon the canal, but for many years there has been no regular service into Brecon, although occasionally a boat-load of merchandize is brought up the canal to the wharf in the Watton.

#### RAILWAYS IN THE COUNTY.

The enthusiasm for laying down public rail-roads, which had resulted in considerable progress being made in English counties, did not reach Breconshire until about the year 1859, although an earlier project had been outlined fourteen years earlier for making a railway affecting some parts of the county. The Brecon and Merthyr Railway was the first undertaking, and after the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, traffic was commenced on the 1st of May, 1863. A year and a half later the Mid-Wales Railway, extending from Brecknock to Llanidloes, was opened. The Hereford, Hay and Brecon was another route opened later, and it may be of interest to note that in 1863, Lady Morgan, of Tredegar, cut the first sod for this railway in Penlan Park, but the then intended route was abandoned in favour of the present one. The Neath and Brecon was completed by the year 1872. Attempts have been made to link up the Crickhowell Valley by railway, with a junction at Talylllyn, but although some expense was incurred in securing powers, the scheme was allowed to drop. These railway services put an end to the stage coach and carrier businesses.



## CHAPTER III.

**Brecknockshire Agricultural Society, its Establishment, Rules, &c. Observations on the Soil of the Hundred of Builth, Talgarth and Vale of Usk, Size of Farms and Nature of Tenures, Course of Husbandry, Breed of Cattle, Horses and Sheep, Common Manures, Prices of Labour in this County, &c.**

THE Breconshire Agricultural Society was first instituted in the month of March, 1755, being as early, if not the earliest association of this kind in the island; it originated in a club or meeting of some respectable gentlemen of the county, assembled at stated periods for amusement and social intercourse, but which the public spirit of the party directed to more beneficial purposes. A magistrate of considerable literary talents moved with an almost mysterious conciseness, “that *something* should be done to benefit the county”; this being seconded and the motion carried, that *something* was instantly defined to be the establishment of a society to be called the Brecknockshire society, formed for the encouragement of agriculture and manufactures, and promoting the general good of the county. At their second meeting on April 16th, 1755, the following rules were submitted and adopted.

I. It is agreed by all the members that no other person shall be admitted but by the approbation of a majority of the present subscribers, to be determined by ballot, and pay five shillings each for admission.—Gentlemen who refused to subscribe before to the first meeting to pay one guinea each.

II. Every subscriber to pay for his ordinary each meeting one shilling, and to pay for his extraordinary the like sum.

III. Every member absenting himself from dinner to forfeit one shilling towards the ordinary, and the like sum towards the general fund of the society.

IV. Dinner to be on table at two o’clock, and the society to break up at ten.

V. Any member to be at liberty, with the consent of the president of the day, to bring a friend to dine; he paying for such friend’s ordinary and extraordinary.

VI. All fines and forfeitures to be applied to the common fund, and to be disposed of by the majority of the members; no less than twenty one to be present.

VII. All questions or differences of opinion to be referred to the president, but if a ballot is demanded, the majority shall decide.

VIII. When any member speaks on matters relating to the society he is to stand up and direct his discourse to the president, if two or more should be up at the same time, the president to name the person first to be heard.

IX. If an equal number should appear upon any ballot, the president to have the casting vote.

CHARLES POWEL, President.

### SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS.

Sir EDWARD WILLIAMS, Baronet  
JOHN HUGHES, Esq.  
HUGH PENRY, Esq.  
CHARLES DAVIDS, Esq.  
JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq.  
WILLIAM MORGAN, Clerk  
THOMAS WILLIAMS, Clerk  
MARMADUKE GWYNNE, Esq.

EDWARD JEFFREYS, Esq.  
JAMES PARRY, Esq.  
CHARLES LLOYD, Clerk  
BARTHOLOMEW COKE, Surgeon  
JOHN LLOYD, Esq.  
JOHN WILLIAMS, Clerk  
PENRY WILLIAMS, Esq.  
THOMAS PRICE, Esq.

### ENROLMENT OF MEMBERS.

Fifty members were at once enrolled, and meetings were held at the Golden Lion, Brecon (now in 1900 the offices of the Brecon Gas Company). Some idea of the accommodation of this house will be gleaned from the following advertisement which appeared on a handbill of that period:—“To be let and entered upon at Michaelmas next, 1778, all that well-known Inn called the Golden Lyon, now very considerably enlarged, situate near the Shire Hall, in the town of Brecon, with very good stalls for upwards of 50 horses and other conveniences proper for a large inn, with or without 42 acres of land near the said town; and also with or without a new-built dwelling house adjoining the said inn, in which the Judges have lately lodged during the Great Sessions.”

From the old minute book of orders which Colonel Thomas Wood, of Gwernyfed, in 1895, presented to the Breconshire Agricultural Society, it appears that the members dined together once a month, and that not less than 30 attended. Dinner was laid on the table at two, and the Society was supposed to break up at ten. It is not surprising that two years after formation it was found necessary to pass the following resolution: “Whereas it has been found inconvenient to do any



business while the liquor is going round, it is therefore proposed that after drinking the healths of the King, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Royal Family, the absent members, and Prosperity to the Society, and the healths of other members and subscribers, the Society proceed to business, and that no liquor be called for or drunk till all debates are over!" To the honour of Mr. Howel Harris be it recorded that in those hard drinking days he steadily set his face against the drinking at the Society's meetings.

#### THE FIRST PRIZES OFFERED.

Their attention was first turned towards the sowing and cultivation of turnips for feeding sheep and cattle, for which they offered a premium of five pounds to the person who raised the best crop on a farm of fifty pounds per annum and upwards, and inferior premiums to the second best, and for raising crops on smaller farms, which they afterwards increased, and it must be admitted that after experiencing difficulties and encountering prejudices suggested by that dislike and hatred of innovation which characterises the country, they ultimately succeeded in introducing this valuable vegetable into general use in this part of the Principality. In their next attempt they were not so fortunate. At their meeting in September, 1755, it was proposed and agreed to, that a premium of four pounds should be given to the person who would produce before the 29th of September, 1756, the best piece of drab coloured cloth, manufactured in this county, from raw wool, the produce thereof measuring twenty-one yards long and one yard wide; two pounds for the second best, and one pound for the third. This subject was again followed up at their subsequent meetings, and one of the members (the late Mr. Powel, of Castlemadoc) was empowered to lay out a sum not exceeding five pounds in purchasing wheels and other necessities for spinning flax and wool, and in order to promote the trade it was proposed to establish a market within this county for woollen yarn.

#### MANUFACTURE OF CLOTH.

If this market were ever held it was not of long continuance. Claims were at different times made and allowed for the manufacture of woollen cloth, pursuant to the regulations of the Society, but either the poverty or incapacity of the tradesmen employed in these works, or else a hint of the opposition from Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, or perhaps all of these causes combined, contributed to deaden the exertions of commercial men, and cramp that spirit of enterprise so absolutely necessary to the success of speculations of this nature. A similar fate marked the attempt of this Society to establish a linen manufacture in the vicinity of Brecon, but this, notwithstanding the advantage pointed out in the memorial or proposals copied above, though more expensive, was a less useless project as far as it affected the interests of the county and Principality. The failure of this speculation injured only the individuals that subscribed towards it, but the loss or rather the obstructions thrown in the way of the establishment of the manufacture of woollen cloths on an extensive plan, was a provincial if not a national misfortune.

The Society continued to encourage and promote this trade, though their efforts gradually relaxed until about the year 1780, after which, with the exception of a few premiums for spinning, their attention was principally directed to agriculture. The rewards offered by this institution in 1800 were confined to the following objects: The cultivation and improvement of rough land overrun with fern, broom, furze or heath, draining boggy soils, sowing, hoeing and drilling turnips, sowing turnip seed, rye, winter vetches or cole seed, as spring fodder for sheep, top dressing turnips, young clover or grassland with peat ashes, sowing clover, acorns, ashkeys, chestnut, beech-mast and other timber trees, raising hawthorn plants and prickly holly plants fit for transplanting, improving the plough and lessening the number of horses or oxen used in tillage, encouraging women to reap wheat, rewarding men and women servants in agriculture, for their good behaviour and continuance for a length of time in the same service, discovering a recipe for the destruction of vermin and for the improvement of the breed of horses, cattle, and swine.

Besides the introduction of turnips into general cultivation, the Association also succeeded in their recommendation of clover and potatoes; in vetches they were not so fortunate, though the soil of the greatest part of the county was peculiarly favourable to the growth of this vegetable, many different kinds of which, and among them that most beautiful of the whole species, the *orobus sylvaticus*, being frequently found growing wild in our woods and fields.

#### THREATENED FRENCH INVASION.

Beneficial as these exertions were to the interest and prosperity of the county of Brecon, the subscribers did not forget they owed a paramount duty to their Sovereign and to their country at



large. When, therefore, this kingdom was threatened with an invasion by the French in 1756, the following loyal address was presented to the Throne:—

*“To the King’s most excellent Majesty.”*

The humble and dutiful address of the Breconshire Society, formed for the encouragement of agriculture and manufactures, and for promoting the general good of the county, assembled at their general monthly meeting held at Brecon, on Wednesday, March 10, 1756.

May it please your Majesty,

We your majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects, with hearts filled with grateful sentiments of your majesty’s paternal care for the welfare of these kingdoms, do humbly beg leave to express the deep sense we have of your majesty’s wisdom in the vigorous measures you have so steadily pursued, in asserting your undoubted right to your American dominions, in the prudent and interesting treaties you have so successfully concluded, and in the happy effects of your great humanity and royal bounty to the unfortunate sufferers at Lisbon.

These, with many other instances of your majesty’s wisdom and benevolence, all concur to add fresh glories to your reign, to render your person and government dear to the heart of every Briton, and to defeat the insolent and unjust usurpation of an ambitious and perfidious power, envious of your goodness and our happiness—and if an invasion or any other emergency during the present critical conjuncture, should require your majesty’s loyal subjects to appear in the defence of your sacred person or the security of the protestant succession in your illustrious house, we hope our actions will then declare how sensible we are of the benefits derived to us, from the wisdom and equity of your majesty’s government: in support of which, we with true zeal offer to form ourselves into a troop of light horse complete, and will be ready to march, at your majesty’s command and at our own expence, to any part of Great Britain, under the discipline and command of such experienced officers as your majesty may be pleased to send for that purpose, and most gracious sovereign, if this method of shewing our sincere attachment to your majesty and illustrious family should not meet with your majesty’s royal approbation, we are ready to dispose of our persons and fortunes in such a manner as your majesty in your great wisdom may think expedient.

And as the prosperity and safety of the nation entirely depend, under God, on the continuance of our present happiness, from the influence of your majesty’s wisdom and justice, we therefore offer up our most ardent prayers to the great and supreme disposer of all things, for the health and preservation of your royal person, and that your endeavours for the public welfare may be attended with success and crowned with honour, so that the present crisis may hereafter appear among the shining periods of the British history.

WILLIAM POWEL, Gent., President.

Upon this occasion, Mr. Howel Harris, of Trevecca, a popular and distinguished preacher among the Methodists of Mr. Whitfield’s tenets, proposed to the Society that if his Majesty should accept of their offer, he would at his own expence furnish ten light horsemen completely armed and accoutred to attend them as an addition to their troupe; that on the 20th of April, 1756, he would bring ten men to enlist on the then emergency, and that the bounty-money allowed such recruits should be paid to the Treasurer of the Society, to be laid out by the members as they should think proper. The services of these agriculturists were deemed more likely to be beneficial to their country in a civil than in a military capacity, but Mr. Harris procured the recruits at his own expence, and the bounties allowed by Government were paid into the hands of the Treasurer, and applied in rewarding industry and promoting the improvement of the county of Brecknock.

For this patriotic offer, as well as contribution to the fund, Mr. Harris was elected an honorary member, as was his brother, the celebrated astronomer, Mr. Joseph Harris.

The records of the Society dealing with the subject state that “upon the motion of Rev. Mr. Canon Williams, of Brecon, the Treasurer pay into his hands £14 12s. 6d., the county money for five recruits brought by Mr. Howel Harris to Three Cocks and there enlisted, which sum of £14 12s. 6d. was paid into the hands of the Treasurer, which Mr. Williams is to remit to the said recruits, and if they refuse the money, he engaging to return same to the Treasurer of the Society.” The five recruits here referred to went to Hereford, where they joined the 58th Regiment, and thence to Plymouth, till orders came for them to embark to Ireland, and as the seat of war between England and France was chiefly then in America, further orders came for that regiment to sail, so they embarked at Cork and landed at Nova Scotia. They fought in the siege and taking of Louisbourg, and their next enterprise was at the taking of Quebec, where the brave General Wolfe lost his life. The last place they were present at was the taking of Havanna from the Spaniards. Four of these young men died a natural death in that part of the world, and the fifth was taken prisoner by the French. This man when peace was concluded reached England, where he was offered preferment, but came home to Trefecca, and here he was gladly received by all the family after an absence of seven years.

#### HOWEL HARRIS AND THE POOR.

Mr. Howel Harris corroborates this account in his diary, in the following words: “I was admitted last night to the Brecon Society and my name written in their book. Sir Edward Williams proposed me as a honorary member to come and go whenever I could, to be always treated by ye president. They seated me on their right hand. I proposed about taking the poor of the county under my care and do whatever service I could to them gratis, and let them come to hear me once a day, and I to visit them myself, and Evan Roberts to look after them gratis, and the Society to order and oversee them, which they agreed to do, and I proposed giving Penywrlodd House (near Trevecca)



gratis. I discussed with Mr. Charles Powell for about an hour on ye plain truth ; my own conversion and my going about, and my present work at Trevecka. I went to Mr. John Meredith to dinner." It does not appear from the minutes that any order was made with regard to Mr. Harris's views to establish a home for the poor. It is evident Mr. Harris was a man in advance of his times, for in this proposal he embodied those regulations in the Poor Laws which came into operation 80 years later.

The following day Mr. Harris went to Penpont on a visit to Mr. Penry Williams. Mr Williams was anxious for the erection of a working school for the employment of young people, anticipating, by 150 years, legislation relating to technical instruction ; and Mr. Harris discussed the matter with him. Mr Williams was favourable to a scheme whereby Mr Harris should take over the children of the poor in this matter, but Mr. Harris remarks : "I saw strong opposition in the Society for me to have the children under my care."

In the year 1895, the then Secretary of the Society (Rhys Davies, Esq., J.P., borough surveyor) was placed in the possession of an old Minute Book of the Society, which carried its records to the year 1762, when a new minute was ordered to be procured. From this Minute Book and other sources, Mr. Davies compiled a history of the Society, with list of presidents, so far as he was able to do so, but he could find no trace of the records kept during the time Thomas Longfellow and his son (who succeeded each other as secretary, and the latter of whom died in London in 1816). From the earliest records of the Association we learn that presidents were numerous, and practically elected at each monthly meeting, to preside, we presume, over the deliberations of the day's meeting and the subsequent dinner. Later, this practice changed, and the election became an annual one ; and the long list contains the names of many notable men resident in the county or having property or interest therein.

#### DISCOVERY OF OTHER RECORDS.

And it may here be mentioned that since the death of Lord Glanusk, and after a good deal of this work had been sent to the printers, there was discovered an old account book of the Society, which helps to throw some light upon the work of the Society between the years 1817 and 1841. This account book fortunately got into the hands of James Morgan, Esq., J.P., Manager of Lloyds Bank at Brecon, who made the present secretary of the Society (Mr. W. T. Isaac, of Castle Farm, Brecon) aware of its existence. From this book we learn the following facts. First, the inscription on the book reads "An account of money received and disbursed by the Brecknockshire Agricultural Society since its *revival*, November 4th, 1817 (first established in the year 1755)." It is thus clear that this old Society, like its contemporary institution, the Brecknock Lodge of Freemasons, lapsed for a period of years, probably from 1802 or earlier to 1816. The first balance sheet of 1817, shows that the Agricultural Society received in subscriptions the sum of £69 6s. 0d. It seems that the practice of meeting monthly was continued at this period, and from the frequent entries of "Cash paid to waiter," we presume the monthly dinners were also continued. The subscribers to the Society in 1817 are not all entered up in detail, but there are many names, such as Penry Williams, Esq., of Penpont (who was probably president this year), Hugh Bold, Esq., Osborne Yeats, Esq., Mr. Williams, Mannest, Col. Wood, M.P., Harcourt Powell, Esq., Mr. Parry, Tretower, F. Fredericks, Esq., Thomas Maybery, Esq., Samuel Church, Esq., David Thomas, Esq., Augustus Gott, Esq., Mr. Charles Price, and others whose memory is perpetuated in memorials in the churches of the county. The expenditure this year included "Premiums as per Minute Book, £52 10s. 0d." ; and "for two books to keep the accounts of the Society and to enter its transactions, £1 3s. 6d." ; "for printing in Hereford paper as per bill, £2 10s. 9d.," and in the *Cambrian* £4 3s. 8d. ; "by money paid Thomas Powell, cabinet maker, £2" ; and "Messrs. W. H. and J. Parker for printing 300 circular letters, 16s. 6d." ; the total expenditure being £67 9s. 4d., and the account was audited by "Hugh Bold, officiating chairman," on December 30, 1818.

In the following year's balance sheet appear the names of the Rev. Canon Payne, J. Bailey, Esq., Nantyglo, Mr. Howell Maund, Brecon, Mr. George Forrest, Cyfarthfa, John Lloyd, Esq., Mr. David Jeffreys, and the receipts rose to £94 7s. 1d. The Show appears to have been held on the 29th September, for we find that a guinea was paid to Mr. Gunter and his assistants "for the use and erection of hurdles for the Show on that day," and a guinea was also paid "for the use of the field for the show of stock in September last" ; but there is nothing to indicate the nature of the Society's operations beyond the words "show of stock." There seems to have been some difficulty in finding judges, for we find a copy of a letter addressed to "William Williams, Esq., Scethrog," and signed by "W. H. West," in the following terms : "Dear Sir,—Mr. John Powell "and myself have been in vain trying to find or hear of a gentleman to act as judge for us on



“Friday. Mr. Powell will be glad if you will come into Brecon to confer with him on the subject “this evening, as no time is to be lost, and it may be necessary to send off a purpose messenger.” The balance in hand at the end of 1819 was £62 10s. 4d., and Penry Williams signs the account.

The year 1820, has “Mr. Archibald of Abercyndrig,” “Thomas Price, Esq., of Builth, for the years 1818, 1819, and 1820, £3 3s. 0d.,” Mr. Ekins (one of the county coroners), William Morgan, Esq., of Bolgoed, Mr. Rees Williams, Tynewydd, and Mr. William Williams, Skethrog, among the new subscribers; and there is the entry on the credit side, “Received of Mr. Williams, of Mannest, towards payment for his silver cup awarded to him at the autumn show, £2 2s. 0d., the cup being ordered to the value of £6 6s. 0d.” And from another like entry we learn that John Ball paid £2 2s. 0d., “being the premium he received for 1818 for ewes, his plate being of the value of £10 10s. 0d.” On the expenditure side we note that Williams, Silversmith, was paid £26 5s. 0d. for the different premiums, and “Mr. Williams, of Aberyskir,” secured £2 2s. 0d. “for the best ram for 1819.” The receipts were £158 1s. 0d., and after meeting the expenditure there remained a balance of £69 1s. 9d.

In 1821, the Duke of Beaufort, Major Price of Brecon, Mr. Churchey, Mr. Williams, Newton, G. Overton, Esq., Edward Jones, Esq., Battel, Rev. Canon Williams, Henry Allen, Esq., J. P. Wilkins, Esq., W. A. Madocks, Esq., M.P., were among other new subscribers, and the receipts, including last year’s balance, were £160 8s. 9d. We have this entry in the expenditure, “Paid Mr. David Jenkins for inspecting and reporting on the turnip crops, for 1820, £2 2s. 0d.,” so that turnip growing was still being fostered by the Society. It appears that Mr. Hall, who was an inn-keeper of Brecon, had something to do with the management of the Society, for we find he was paid £12 7s. 5d. “for advertising in *Cambrian* and other newspapers, as per bill”; and it should be noted that £2 2s. 0d. was paid to Mrs. Hughes, printer, of Brecon, for printing. A large amount of money was given to purchase plate for premiums, and “Mr. Evan Williams, of Aberyskir,” took £5 5s. 0d. in silver plate, and the Penkelly Castle and “Tenewidd” farmers were also successful; Mr. Williams, Newton, for the best boar, gets £2 2s. 0d., and “Jane West for long service” is paid £2 2s. 0d. “Henry Allen” signs the account.

In 1822, Mr. Roger Watkins, of Llyswen, Thomas H. Powell, Esq., Peterstone, Mr. William Parry, Ceven y Cantreff, Rev. Geo. Jones Bevan, Crickhowell, Launcelot Morgan, Esq., W. H. Bevan, Esq., Beaufort Iron Works, Henry Goldsmid, Esq., Penymyarth, Mr. John Herbert, Gilvach, were among the new subscribers. The prize winners included Mr. Robert Downes for £3 3s. 0d., Mr. Powell of Chilston “for a cart stallion,” £5 5s. 0d.; and there were premiums awarded for turnip hoeing, long service, and “for bringing up a family without parochial aid.” The receipts drop to £81 0s. 5d., and a balance of only £3 2s. 7d. remains in hand when the account is audited.

In 1823, these receipts are still further reduced, being only £56 13s. 7d. In this year George Overton, Esq., gets a premium of £2 2s. 0d. “for the best crop of turnips in 1821,” and the waiter still gets his tip, but as the meetings are few, his income from the Society is much reduced.

The year 1824 is notable for a vigorous growth in the subscription list, and the receipts from all sources reach £147 7s. 6d. This seems to be due to the payment of many arrears due from members, and the Marquis Camden is credited with £22 1s. 0d. “for subscriptions for 7 years to 1824.” The premiums are paid for various kinds of stock, turnip growing, long service, largest family, and a new premium is that for small farmers, amounting to three guineas.

In 1825 and 1826 matters are much the same financially, but we have this new feature in the prizes. The Society had no doubt seen the wisdom of encouraging shepherds to look after their flocks, and especially during the lambing seasons; premiums were therefore offered to those shepherds who were successful in rearing the largest number of lambs. The following certificate will give an idea of what the system was: “Lowland Shepherd. This certifies that John Jones, shepherd to “Thomas Trouncer of Sheephouse, hath, this last season, reared from 285 hill ewes the number of “304 sound, healthy lambs, until the 31st day of May last. Witness my hand the 30th day of “September, 1843. THOMAS TROUNCER, Master.” Prizes were also offered to Mountain Shepherds. From the account of 1826, we also get information that Wilkins and Co. were treasurers to the Society.

The work of the Society was continued much in the same way until 1841, when the entries in the account book cease. Here and there we get a glimpse of the changes which time made in the ranks of Brecknockshire magnates; but when men disappeared by reason of death or other circumstances, others took their places in the management and encouragement of the Society. And the pages in this old account book contain the names of many gentlemen who for years loyally supported the



efforts to promote the interests of agriculture within the county. Some of those names are no longer even a memory in local annals, but the descendants of many of those patrons are still in the county, taking their part, as did their ancestors, in the work of this old institution.

With regard to the long-service premiums already mentioned, as these are no longer awarded by the Society, it may not be devoid of interest to quote one of the certificates sent in by a competitor. Here it is: "Second day of September, 1843. This certifies that Morgan Pritchard has "lived in my family as an yearly servant, wholly employed in husbandry, during twenty-seven years "ending the 1st day of August last; that he was not a parish apprentice, and that his conduct "during the whole time has been honest, sober, orderly, and industrious; as such I beg leave to "recommend him as worthy the reward of the Breconshire Agricultural Society. William Probert, "Court-Gilbert, Master." This certificate was countersigned by the Minister and Churchwardens of the parish, in this particular case, "Jno. Jones, Minister of the parish of Llanspythid, and John Jones and John Probert, Churchwardens."

At the end of the book of accounts is a list of subscribers, alphabetically arranged, together with the amount of their subscriptions and donations for the years 1817 to 1824. A special meeting of the Society held on the 26th day of November, 1817, made numerous rules for the government of the Society, 34 in all, and elections to membership were by ballot, quarterly meetings were to be held, with monthly committee meetings. By these rules the Association still maintained much of the character of a club devoted to the improvement of agriculture, and for social intercourse, and one of its rules provided that a library should be formed out of the funds of the Society, but the records of its payments from 1817 to 1843 make no mention of any purchases of books.

The schedule of premiums offered by the Society for the year 1839 is before us. The patrons were the Duke of Beaufort and Marquis of Camden, the president Charles M. R. Morgan, Esq., M.P., and Colonel Wood, M.P., vice-president. The office of treasurer was held by John Parry Wilkins, Esq., and Mr. William Williams was secretary. The subscribers numbered 98, and a perusal of the list affords striking evidence of the changes which have taken place in the holding of landed property in the county in the comparatively brief period of seventy years. Many of the names there given are no longer known within Brecknockshire. The first of three premiums offered were—For the best ploughman, a suit of clothes; for the second best ditto, a coat and waistcoat; for the third ditto, a coat; *all with the Society's buttons*: those buttons would be valuable to-day as curiosities. Fifty pounds were offered as premiums in the live stock competitions, besides 12 silver cups. For the cultivation of land, such as the best crops of wheat, best and cleanest crops of turnips, best crops of mangel wurzel, etc., £10 were offered. To shepherds rearing the largest number of lambs, to the best shoeing smith, to the cottager showing the best selection of honey, to the best labourer, "male or female," who shall hoe turnips in the most complete and clean manner, to the labourer having the largest number of children which he has maintained without troubling the parish, to servants remaining the longest period in service, premiums amounting to £19 19s. 0d. were offered as rewards, and a new feature was included, for we find £2 12s. 6d. offered as rewards to servants who shall have invested, "out of his or her earnings, and still possesses the largest sum in the County and Borough Savings Bank." These last premiums show that in the past the agricultural labourer was much more considered in the operations of the Society than he has been for some years past. The silver cups were offered by Joseph Bailey, Esq., M.P., Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, Esq., Major Gwynne Holford, John Parry Wilkins, Esq., W. B. Stratton, Esq., Walter Wilkins, Esq., M.P., Colonel Wood, M.P., Walter Maybery, Esq., J.P., J. P. Snead, Esq., the Rev. R. W. P. Davies, of Courtygollen, Penry Williams, Esq., and the Messrs. Morgan of Glasbury (whose prize was "for the best pen of fat wethers, not less than 10 in number, quality and quantity of wool to be considered." This family were the ancestors of a president who in 1907 was serving the high position of Lord Mayor of the City of London (Walter Vaughan Morgan, Esq.), and who was afterwards created a baronet of the United Kingdom, and received from several foreign Sovereigns other distinguished marks of favour. The tradesmen of Brecon also offered silver cups, etc., of the value of £25. The Committee appointed by the Society to carry out the Show of 1839 comprised—Mr. Canon Williams, Mr. Thomas Morris, Therrow; Colonel Allen and Henry Allen, Esq., Oakfield; C. C. Clifton, Esq., Tymawr; Mr. W. Hughes, Llanfaes; Mr. Thos. Watkins, Brecon; Penry Williams, Esq.; Mr. James Williams, Pontithel; J. W. Morgan, Esq., Treble Hill; Thomas Morgan, Esq., Pipton. From this document we learn the Society was revived on the 28th November, 1817.

The later history of this Society is set out in the newspapers of the day, and there is hardly any necessity for dealing with the subject further. Its premiums were and are to this day awarded for purely agricultural purposes. The growth of other towns in the agricultural districts has resulted



in the formation of similar societies at Devynock, Crickhowell, Builth, and Hay. Ploughing Associations, also formed in the county, stimulated good work amongst the ploughmen, but alas! with the diminishing acreage under cultivation, there is less need for those Societies or for ploughmen.

#### THE SOIL OF THE COUNTY.

In his observations upon the nature of the soil of the county, Mr. Theophilus Jones writes thus :—

“There is a considerable variation not only in the surface of the country, but in the nature of the strata of the hundred of Builth, from that of the vale of Usk : there is also a great difference in the course and practice of husbandry of the former district, from that which prevails in the Southern and Eastern parts of the county. As the soil of the latter is too porous to retain the necessary moisture, that of the hundred of Builth is remarkably argillaceous ; the water therefore is prevented from sinking sufficiently deep, and is held upon the surface until it sours. Notwithstanding, the mode of improving such land is obvious, draining creeps too slowly into practice there, and one-fourth part of the hundred is permitted to remain in the state of wet boggy commons, called in the British *rhosydd*, upon which *something like hay* is mown at the latter end of the summer, though the English farmer will hardly recognise it by that name, when he is told that it is so short as to be carried home in a sheet, or thrown into a basket placed upon a sledge.

“The farms in this part of the country are generally small, and let on leases for years, the term usually commencing on the 25th of March, although the going off tenant has the outhouses till May to fodder his cattle, and a road to water ; lands let from six to seven shillings per acre, and the poorest grounds from three shillings to four.

“The inhabitants do not raise a sufficiency of corn for their own consumption ; according to their present system of husbandry, tillage would certainly not repay them, as the general average produce of wheat per acre in the hundred (unless the vicinity of the town of Builth be included, and even then it would make no material alteration in the aggregate) is not calculated to exceed five bushels ; but there is no doubt that if the land were well manured and limed, tillage would become as profitable in the vales here as in other parts of the county. The farmers, however, at present depend principally, if not entirely, upon the sale of their butter, cheese, cattle and sheep : this latter animal is a peculiar favourite, because from the contiguity of the extensive chain of mountains, dividing Builth from the hundred of Merthyr on the South, and the hills on the borders of Cardiganshire and Radnorshire on the North, most farmers claim, and all of them exercise, an unlimited right of common upon these valuable *walks*, upon which the sheep are depastured with little, if any, expense during the greatest part of the year.

“As we descend along the vale of Wye towards Glazbury and Hay, the soil improves materially ; it loses its injurious tenacity and admits a proportion of loam and sand, though it is not so porous as that of the Usk. When we cross the Epynt and approach the banks of the latter river, a far better and more enlightened system of husbandry is discoverable ; the farms are in general larger, the enclosures more regular and better preserved in many places, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Brecon ; ground has been reclaimed and cultivated, which only a few years back was unproductive, the arable lands are well manured and limed, the pastures top-dressed and cleared of stones and rubbish, and in short, the face of the country wears an aspect very different from that of the hundred of Builth.

#### AGRICULTURAL TAKINGS AND METHODS OF CULTIVATION.

“The landed property is generally freehold throughout the country. In the vales it lets from fifteen shillings to a guinea an acre ; in the neighbourhood of Glazbury and Hay some farms are let for forty shillings an acre, and in the vicinity of Brecon and other towns in this county from three to four pounds. The takings in the vales are from fifty pounds to two hundred pounds a year, and in the high lands from ten to twenty pounds. The nature and duration of tenures vary according to the disposition of the landlords ; some farms are held at will, and at rack rent, others under leases from a term certain, and some from the lord of the manor of Crickhowell, and under the Tredegar family in Ystradfellte for three lives.

“It has been justly observed that men rarely cultivate an estate well, or even to the best of their capacities, unless they be invested in some degree with the property of it, or enjoy a tenure of some duration in it. Encouragement therefore for industrious and careful tenants should be thought of by landlords ; rack-renting hurts the proprietors of the land sometimes immediately, and always remotely, for in such cases a shrewd farmer gets more by continually harrassing the ground



than by giving it the assistances of repose and manure, he gains by desolation and loses by improvement. In some parts of England the inhabitants have a strange old proverb on this occasion,

He that havocks may sit,  
He that improves must flit.

“Or in other words, the tenant who racks the land may continue in the farm until he had worn out the soil; but he who improves the estate must pay an advanced rent, or be obliged to quit. In Italy, where the husbandman’s time of holding is almost expired, it is his custom to ruin the vineyard he rents, by forcing the trees to bear, till they become barren: such treatment is called by the neighbourhood *Lascia podere*, or adieu farm. The spur of interest is certainly necessary to excite industry: leases then of a proper length and upon a fair medium rent, render land of equal benefit to the landlord and tenant, thence arises a liberal and enterprising spirit, which to a certainty enriches the industrious occupier and fully secures the property of the owner.

“The general terms of leases in this county are from seven and fourteen to twenty-one years current; in some instances eleven, or twenty-one certain. In the hundreds of Crickhowel and Talgarth new tenants commonly commence their term at Candlemas; the usual covenants are, the landlord puts everything in repair at the first entry upon the farm, and makes good the ring fence; the tenant engages to keep and deliver up the premises, and the precincts, in *statu quo*, at the expiration of his term. The landlord allows plough-boot, hedge-boot, and rough gate-wood: the tenant not allowed to top or poll any maiden tree, the landlord upon tenant’s first entry allows twenty barrels of lime (some more, some less), per customary acre for the arable; the tenant engages to lay an equal quantity within the last year of his term; no ancient ley or meadow to be ploughed up without the landlord’s permission; tenant to consume all the hay and straw upon the premises; the tenants under the Duke of Beaufort have special clauses, agreeably to the custom of the manor.

“The going-off tenant throughout the county retains the use of the house, barns and other offices, and in most places a piece of arable land, having water in it, for the purpose of feeding off his hay and straw, till the 1st of May. The meadow land to be given up to the new tenant at Christmas, where the taking is Candlemas. In case the going-off tenant has sown wheat, and *limed his fallow*, he is entitled to three-fourths of the ensuing crop; if he merely fallows, but lays on no lime, to two-thirds; if upon clover lay, to one half, and barn-room in every instance for his portion of the crop, otherwise he is at full liberty to carry it away. Wheat after turnips is deemed a fallow.

“Tenants at will, without a special agreement to the contrary, assume a right of carrying off or selling all hay, straw and manure from the premises, and ruinous as this custom is, it has been frequently exercised and allowed, though some doubts are entertained whether it be legal. Mr Clarke, in his agricultural report on Brecknockshire, observes ‘that the mode of culture upon the good soil of this district is conducted in such a manner as to leave little room for improvement; but where the land is poor by nature, the tillage part of the husbandry especially is the very worst that can possibly be imagined.’ Upon the first head, we give our reporter all due credit for the civility of his observation: it must indeed be allowed that within the last twenty years agricultural knowledge has been considerably advanced within the vale of Usk; but it cannot even by vanity be supposed that we have as yet arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of improvement. A multitude of ridiculous and idle prejudices still continue to disgrace the practice of our native farmers, which in the present generation it may be difficult to eradicate: it is not, however, unreasonable to hope that time and experience may contribute to dispel the mist, and enlighten the minds of a better informed posterity. As to our highland farmers, they are generally too poor to attempt improvements of any consequence; to use a common expression, they literally ‘live from hand to mouth.’ A few acres of oats or barley (which with difficulty they are at any rate enabled to cultivate), with a few sheep and small cattle upon the mountains, are their only stock; and yet with these, provided they are enabled to discharge their rent, they live contented.

“Carts and waggons are the common implements of conveyance of materials in the vale; but the uplands are accessible by the sledge only.

“The usual teams in tillage are four or five horses, otherwise six oxen, or four oxen and a horse, ‘enough (to use the words of an intelligent friend) to ruin a farmer, if land were at five shillings an acre.’ That curse to labouring oxen, the heavy yoke, is still in common use, and they are worked in pairs.

“The country plough is a heavy, clumsy, and inefficient implement, but long custom has prejudiced our husbandmen in its favour. Within the last few years, however, the short Rotherham, or as it is here called the Whitchurch plough, has been introduced, and we think it now bids fair to



obtain a preference. It is certainly worked with less labour and better adapted to our light and sandy soil; some few gentlemen have adopted the whip-rein, with two horses abreast, without a driver, and with this they are enabled to plough a statute acre per day. The advantages of this latter plan are so clearly manifested by the reduction of expense, and the lessening of labour, that our farmers will shortly see them, and we may hope in a few years to find it in universal practice. Our ploughmen are generally good; not a man of them but is perfectly master of the *strait line*, and every furrow runs perfectly parallel: to their credit be it spoken, a neighbouring county to the West annually offers, or at least lately did offer, a premium of ten guineas to such of their servants in husbandry, as shall be willing to reside three years in Brecknockshire, and there learn to hold the plough. Wheat, rye, barley, oats, vetches, turnips, and potatoes are the common arable crops of the South and South-Eastern parts of the county, and they are cultivated with tolerable success. The common practice of husbandry along the vale of Usk in the present day is this, fallow, wheat, peas or barley, oats, turnips, barley and clover, let the clover lie for two years, and wheat upon the clover lay. But the more enlightened agriculturists pursue the following routine: Fallow and sow turnips, barley and clover one year, wheat on lay, peas or oats, fallow again, and sow turnips. Premiums were at one time offered by the Agricultural Society to promote the culture of potatoes upon intended wheat fallows, but owing to the lightness of the soil it was not found to answer, and was soon abandoned: potatoes are now generally set upon parts of the turnip land, or, when made a sole crop, are succeeded by barley.

“The harvest generally commences in August, and ends about the middle of October; though upon high lands and in the close valleys between the hills, owing to cold, or unfavourable seasons, they are sometimes later. The sickle or reaping hook is the favourite instrument of the country; though of late years the scythe and cradle has considerably superseded it: the operation of the latter being more powerful, and consequently requiring fewer hands in the field. One good mower with the scythe and cradle will cut at least three acres a day. Reapers are paid from one shilling to eighteen pence per acre with meat and drink, from two to three shillings when they find their own provisions; though a certain portion of beer or cider is even then expected, and generally allowed; oats and barley are commonly mowed with a scythe like hay. It appears from the account of Giraldus Cambrensis that neither scythe or sickle was in use among the Ancient Britons but that they used an instrument formed like the blade of a knife, with a wooden handle, fixed loosely at each end, and with this they cut their corn in a manner infinitely more expeditious.

“All grain is for the most part threshed out by the bushel, and payment made in kind, in the proportion of one bushel in twenty to the thresher—with some few exceptions, but in some parts of the county they are paid in specie. The average product or returns are nearly these: wheat on the low-lands from ten to fifteen bushels per statute acre; rye from ten to fifteen ditto; barley from fifteen to twenty-five ditto; peas from fifteen to twenty-five ditto; upon some particular spots we may venture to increase the average. Our bushel contains ten gallons. Good wheat weighs from seventy-eight to eighty pounds per bushel. The red lammas seems to be the favourite wheat of the county; but the cone, and Essex duns, where tried, have been found to be at least equally productive.

#### MENSURATION OF LAND.

“The mensuration of land is very generally estimated by the *cyfair*, or *cyfar*, a portion nearly answerable to the Roman Jugerum, and by common computation one-third less than the English statute acre. In the British laws of Hywel Dda, the *Erw*, is declared to have been the statute acre of the early Welsh, and is thus singularly and whimsically defined: The following is the measure of the lawful statute acre; four feet in the length of the short yoke; eight in the field yoke; twelve in the lateral yoke; sixteen in the long yoke; and a rod equal in length to that in the hand of the driver, with his hand upon the middle knot of that yoke; and as far as that reached on each side of him, is the breadth of the acre; and thirty times as much as its length.’ Others say that the acre ought to be measured with a rod equal in length to the stature of the tallest man in the hamlet, with his hand stretched upwards towards heaven; and then it proceeds in the manner above mentioned. It is also defined in another manner thus: ‘Sixteen feet are the length of the yoke; sixteen yokes make the length of the acre, and two makes its breadth.’ Again, ‘The perch of Hywel Dda was eighteen feet long; and eighteen such perches made the length of an acre, which was two perches wide.’ In the short yoke there were two oxen abreast; in the next, four; in the next, six; and in the last, eight. Neither meadow, pasture, nor woodland were included in the *Erw*, for only the arable land was measured, and that of every other description was deemed waste: indeed this also appears from our term *cyfar*, compounded of *cyf*, together, and *ar*, ploughing. It takes its name from an ancient custom among the Welsh, of entering into articles of partnership, wherein each partner was obliged



to bring cattle and implements of husbandry until they had finished ploughing; in these agreements a certain acre was set aside towards the expenses of providing such implements, in the Welsh laws termed *cyfair-casnadd*; but neither Dr. Wotton nor any other Welsh lexicographer attempts to explain the meaning of the word, simply stating that it is synonymous with *Erw'r-gwydd*. The latter, it is thought, implies the *woody-acre*, from whence the partnership was to be supplied with timber for their plough-boot. A piece of land in Llanbedr, in the hundred of Crickhowell, is to this day called *Erw-y-Gwydd*. May we venture to derive the word *casnadd* from the old *Irish*? Edw. Llwyd in his *Irish-English dictionary* gives us as obsolete words, *caois*, a furrow (now written *Cwys* in Welsh) and *naidhm*, a bargain or covenant. There was also another acre set aside as a remuneration to any such partner as might have the misfortune of losing one of his oxen in ploughing, upon his oath that such accident had not happened through his own fault or negligence. This was called *Erw'r ych du*, or the acre of the black, i.e., dead ox. Whence perhaps the old proverb, 'the black ox has never trodden on his foot'—applied to a person who has never suffered misfortune. The word *Erw*, in Breconshire, always signifies the English statute acre. In Monmouthshire, and some parts of Glamorganshire, they estimate four *cyfars* to the *Erw*. In some part of Wales the term *cyfar* is still used to signify as much ground as one plough can work in a day; but here it is not restricted to any one species of land. Mr. William Williams, a land surveyor of Cwmdy, computes the Brecknockshire *cyfar* at 2 roods and 26 perches; but the computation differs in different parts of the county. In the foregoing observations the English statute acre is adhered to.

#### THE FARMING STOCK AND CROPS.

“The cattle and horses of the country are generally small; both breeds however, have been considerably improved within these few years by crosses from other counties, the former principally from Glamorganshire and Herefordshire, of which the latter is now the favourite.

“With respect to horses, the Agricultural Society has from time to time exerted itself and still continues to attend the breed within the county, by offering premiums for the introduction of good stallions, both of the hunting and draught kinds; in the latter case giving a preference to the Suffolk Punch breed, as being best calculated for work in a mountainous country. The Punch is a well knit horse, short backed and thick shouldered, with a broad neck and well lined with flesh; it is a satisfaction to observe that our farming teams have been greatly improved by these encouragements, and our yeomen begin to feel a laudable pride in the goodness of their cattle.

“The extensive mountains which form so considerable a portion of the whole county are covered with innumerable flocks of sheep. The habits and manners of these animals and their keepers are little known to the world at large and much less to the learned part of the community. After long hesitation and frequent doubts, courts of justice have at last agreed, though apparently against their conviction, to admit, that those who have been accustomed to the care of sheep can identify their countenances and describe with precision their general shape and make.

“Nor are these animals themselves without talents and without peculiarities; their general characteristic is an amiable mildness, which submits without complaint to every injury they may sustain from either man or the brute creation. When they are accompanied by their young they appear to assume a courage, which is almost ludicrous, when we know how short lived it is likely to be. The dam (placing her offspring in the rear) turns round, looks at the barking cur, stamps with her foot as if challenging an attack and provoking the affray, nay even the whole flock form something like martial array, and put on 'a swaggering outside,' but the moment the enemy charges they disperse in all directions, seek their safety in flight, and become the same defenceless creatures as they are during the greatest part of their lives. Their dispositions however vary in different parts of the kingdom. In England they are docile and domestic, they may be there confined by enclosures, and are patient of control, they are driven into their nightly folds without difficulty, and collected without labour by the shepherd, while ours in Wales resemble their aboriginal masters, in manners and their mode of life. While they are depastured in fields and low lands, and boundaries prescribed to them, they have a mischievous activity which baffles human ingenuity to correct.

“There are some other traits in their character deserving of notice, and therefore proper to be stated before we have done with them. When they are first driven to the hills from the low grounds, the old sheep, with that affection (which is however not peculiar to this animal) mount to the highest eminence and leave or rather confine the yearlings and youngest to the lowest part of the hill, showing them by their conduct, perhaps informing them in their language, that they are not so capable of enduring cold as those who have been accustomed to a more bleak and elevated situation; it is very certain also that providence has implanted in them for the preservation of their species a *presentiment* of the approach of hard weather, particularly of snow (sometimes so fatal to them),



a day or two before it falls they are observed to avoid the ditches and other situations where drifts are likely to be formed, and sometimes (though seldom) they have been known to quit the hills entirely, to overleap all enclosures and to come down into the vales a day before a storm commenced. There is also a peculiarity (as it is said) in the sheep bred in Glamorganshire, when sold and delivered into Breconshire which is very remarkable; but incredible as it appears, it is attested by the universal voice of those who are conversant in this species of traffic; they assert positively that if a lot of sheep be brought from the former county into the latter, the purchaser is obliged to watch them for a considerable time more narrowly and with greater care than the other part of his flocks. They say that when the wind is from the South they *smell it*, and as if recognising their native air, they instantly meditate an escape; it is certain (whatever may be the cause) that they may be described sometimes standing upon the highest eminence, turning up their noses and apparently snuffing up the gale. Here they remain as it were ruminating for some time, and then if no impediment occurs they scour with impetuosity along the waste, and never stop until they reach their former homes; perhaps when we recollect the numerous instances that have been related of dogs, horses, and other animals returning from immense distances to their accustomed habitations and native plains, this may not appear altogether so marvellous.

“It is hardly necessary to add that the Welsh sheep are considerably smaller than those of their species in England, and therefore it is said less profitable. The English sheep are certainly heavier, and therefore produce a greater price in the market, but it must be recollected that ours live upon much poorer lands than the former, and indeed that they feed a great part of the year on the summits of the hills, where few other animals could be placed, and which would otherwise produce no profit to the community. When these advantages are considered, we must not too hastily decide upon the question. Certain it is that if our diminutive breed were lost, the epicure would lament, even though the farmer might rejoice.

“The common manures of the county are lime, yard-muck, the produce of the farm, compost of lime with the scourings of headlands, and ditches, and coal-ashes, the last generally used for grass lands, upon which it produces the meillionen or white clover in abundance. Fern or straw is likewise thrown in the hollow wet parts of bye roads to rot during the winter, but this, as it is an abuse injurious to the public, ought not to be allowed.

“There is certainly no part of husbandry in which our farmers are more unpardonably negligent than in the management of their muck yard—most inconsiderately do they suffer those valuable juices to run in waste along the roads to the annoyance of the traveller, which more attentive husbandmen would carefully preserve for the enriching of their lands. The farmer’s best friend is undoubtedly his dunghill! how often does he ungratefully neglect it!

“Our British farmer forms one common heap of all the produce of his yard; and if he keeps it tolerably together, supposes that nothing more is necessary. There it lies exposed to wind and sun, till the owner is at leisure to carry it to the field, and then both new and old are indiscriminately used together; or if any lies over to another season, it is most probably that which ought to have been used first. The Roman, with greater judgment, formed his dunghill into two parts, providing that one should be rotted to its proper state of putrefaction, whilst the other was accumulating to its intended quantity; and was always particularly careful to preserve it from evaporation.

“Lime, as an acknowledged native of the country, easy of access, and cheap of purchase, is the general favourite manure with the greatest part of the farmers in Breconshire, and is commonly laid on in the proportion of thirty barrels to the statute acre: each barrel containing three customary bushels, or thirty gallons,—some lay on more, some less.

“Clover, rye-grass and trefoil are the only artificial grasses in common cultivation; some few farmers have we believe attempted the growth of saintfoin, but as their attempts were languid, we need not wonder they were unsuccessful; with proper management and attention it would doubtless prove a valuable acquisition. Jethro Tull tells us, that its increase in poor land is in a ratio of forty degrees greater than that of common grass. Vetches are sometimes, though (as before observed) not frequently and generally sown for the spring feeding of cattle.

“Perhaps, to use old Hartlib’s words, ‘we are to blame that we have neglected lucerne;’ that valuable plant so highly celebrated by ancient as well as modern writers. If we may believe Columella and Palladius, ‘The herb medica is most excellent; because one sowing lasts ten years, and affords commonly four, sometimes six cuttings in the season—because it enriches the land that produces it; fattens lean cattle, and affords a remedy to such as are sick, and because one jugerum of it completely feeds three horses for a whole year.’ The modern writer of ‘Experiments on



transplanted lucerne' makes one remark, which, if correct, is worthy of our attention. 'I know,' says he, 'from my own experience, that sheep will eat lucerne, green when they refuse every sort of food besides, nor can there be a better preservative, when the rot begins to threaten, than to give them green lucerne, mixed with a little bog-bean; or lucerne hay moistened with fresh brine.' He then adds in a note, 'the marsh trefoil commonly called buck-bean, is a plant of an unsavory taste, and sheep when sound commonly avoid eating it, but when symptoms of the rot begin to attack them, they search for it by instinct, and devour it greedily. Where such sheep are depastured, no buck-bean is to be found, for in a week or two they devour it all. Might it not be prudent therefore in our husbandmen, who keep large flocks, to cultivate an acre of the plants in morassy grounds, which otherwise would not yield them two shillings an acre? Some might be cut green for unsound sheep, and given them with lucerne, as occasion might require; and some might be made into hay and mixed with their fodder. We cannot remember that this advice has been given by any husbandry writer.'

"In our Welsh botanologies, this plant is called *meillionen y gors*, or the marsh trefoil, but is better known to our mountaineers by the name of *ffa'r waun*, i.e., bog-bean, and is found in great abundance upon a quaking bog at Rhos-y-mwyn, upon the mountains of Llangattock and Llangynidr, upon Mynidd Iltyd, in Llangorse lake, and many of the *rhosydd* in this county. It is a fine generous bitter, wonderfully strengthening to the *human* stomach, and assisting a decayed digestion, and from these well known qualities, it is probable that our author's observation upon *sheep* is perfectly just; if so the discovery is a very useful one.

"In the management of the meadow land there is nothing very praiseworthy. Too generally the hay crops are ruined by the mischievous, but prevailing practice of late grazing with sheep, which are sometimes suffered to remain on the land until the latter end of April or beginning of May; the consequence of this is, that in hot dry summers a fatal deficiency must ensue, and should a severe winter unfortunately follow, the owner is obliged to purchase hay for his spring consumption, under all the disadvantages of dear markets. The introduction of green crops for the spring feeding of sheep can alone remedy this defect, but this is an improvement at which we have not yet arrived. Another almost universal fault which may be observed is, the suffering grass to stand too long before it is mowed; a generally prevalent but erroneous idea has immemorially influenced our farmers to a belief that by cutting hay before it is (as they call it) *sufficiently hard*, they lose in quantity, and therefore they leave it standing till the stools are become absolutely foxy and the stocks are dwindled into mere bents, sans taste, sans smell, sans everything. In fact, by this means the first crop is lost, and they are now cutting what ought to be their lattermath. Avarice is here their principal motive. It will hardly be controverted that the leaves of grass are equally essential to good hay with the stalks, they indeed form the most nutritious part of it; let us watch their progress and we see them grow together, daily gaining in strength and increasing in quantity until the stalks arrive at full maturity and put forth their blossoms; the plant is now in high perfection and ready for the scythe, but this once past, the leaf decays, the stalk hardens, and every symptom of old age increases: in such a stage what nutriment can it afford to cattle? Little, if any, and clean straw is nearly as beneficial.

"The common price of mowing hay is from two shillings and sixpence per statute acre, with a limited quantity of ale or cider; in some places a gallon to the acre, in others less. Most of the farmers, however, pay by the day, viz., a shilling, and find the mower both in meat and drink; female haymakers receive from sixpence to ninepence a day, and usually stipulate for an allowance of drink. Hay, from the great demand for it, has for several years been estimated very highly, having been seldom under three, and sometimes amounting to five, and even seven pounds per ton. But in future it will probably decline in value; various circumstances having combined to depress those markets by which the trade was principally supported—railways and canals are daily subverting the business of the carriers. And agricultural improvements in the region of the mountains have enabled the gentlemen in the iron trade in some measure to supply themselves, without depending as heretofore upon the produce of the vales.

#### FARM SERVANTS.

"The wages of farming servants have increased very greatly within the last ten years—mining, collieries, lime kilns, iron works, canals and railroads, whereby the labourer is enabled to earn his half crown or three shillings a day, have thrown the husbandman very far into the back ground; and it is often with difficulty that he can find a sufficient number of hands to cut and house his crops. Certain it is that his expenses are nearly doubled within that period. The head bailiff or upper servant in particular has an extraordinary advance of wages, for which it is difficult to



account; the exertions of this class are neither greater, nor their services more valuable now, than at any former period. The dearness of provisions cannot be urged as an argument in their favour, for the whole expence of maintenance is borne by the employer. Clothes we must indeed allow to be extra, which are rendered dearer by the times, and consequently bear heavily upon the servant, but (these once laid in, in tolerable stock), two-thirds of lower wages would be clear gain. Far different from theirs is the situation of the day labourer, upon whose single exertions not merely himself as an individual, but perhaps a wife, and a numerous family of children depend for bread. To such a man an occasional increase of wages is undoubtedly both just and necessary. The price of labour ought surely to bear some proportion to existing circumstances and the increased prices of the necessaries of life; or the farmer should supply his labourers with grain on such terms as may enable them to subsist upon their present hire, and in this, we believe all thinking men agree. The great difficulty is to arrange such a plan as may assume a practicable shape. Humanity and a kind anxiety to relieve the distresses of the poor, and particularly those of the industrious labourer and manufacturer, have ever been distinguishing characteristics of the British nation, and never were they more brilliantly exerted than during the universally distressing scarcities of 1795, 1800, and 1801. 'The wages of the day labourer,' says Dr. Withering, 'are certainly very inadequate to the price of provisions, and hence arises in a great measure, the enormous increase of the poor rates. I confine my observations on this subject to country parishes; a man, his wife and five children, living chiefly on bread, as these people do, will consume one bushel of wheat per week. The man gains from six to nine shillings a week, and his bread costs him eight shillings or more when such is the price of wheat.'

"The years 1795, 1800, and 1801 have been already noticed as seasons of unusual scarcity: during the summer (1801) wheat was sold in the Brecknock and Abergavenny markets at the enormous price of thirty shillings for the bushel, and other grain proportionately dear. The majority of our farmers, so far from having corn to sell—to use a figurative expression, were compelled to '*go down to Egypt to buy corn, that they might live and not die.*' '*They sold their cattle in exchange for bread, and scarcely aught was left but their bodies and their lands.*' "

#### MODERN CONDITIONS.

Such was the condition of agriculture at the period when Theophilus Jones completed his inquiries. For the next fifty years there was no material change in those conditions, for there were good and bad seasons, and alternating depression and prosperity. Brecknockshire did not increase its corn growing capacity, and when bread was scarce and dear elsewhere, the same state of affairs dominated existence in the county. Men, however, continued to remain on the land, but the wages of the labourers were small and his opportunities for advancement few. Farmers still pursued their avocations in the same old-fashioned way: they sowed, mowed, and reaped by hand, and gathered their crops together into well-ordered ricks in the rick-yard or field, or filled their extensive barns. But manual labour in this respect was soon to be replaced. Machinery for mowing and making of the hay came into use about 1860, but not extensively until about ten years later, when reaping and all other kinds of agricultural implements were placed upon the market. This inroad of machinery created utter confusion amongst agricultural labourers, who seemed doomed to extinction, and men began to wander away to the towns, never to return to the villages, and their old cottages soon fell into decay for want of tenants. As some indication of the general state of things it may be stated that in one village where there were numerous cottages and three public houses forty years ago, those licensed houses have all now disappeared and most of the cottages are in ruins. To such an extent did this exodus continue that in 1880 the farmers began to experience a considerable scarcity of labour, and the wages of farm labourers rose considerably. But much of the land was going out of cultivation, and the growing of corn was much decreasing in volume. Farmers realised that they could do better than follow the plough; and they began to lay their land down to grass and to rear cattle and sheep, and here and there a few good horses; with this stock they came into the markets and fairs, and assumed the role, in many cases, of dealers in stock. In the district of the hills there are great quantities of sheep, the largest breeders probably being Thomas McTurk, Esq., J.P., of Cnewr, W. S. Miller, Esq., J.P., of Forest Lodge, Owen Price, Esq., J.P., of Nantyrharn, and Mr. David Price, of St. John's Mount. Farmers generally breed sheep in abundance, and find a constant and an increasing demand for them, the proximity of their markets to the iron and steel works of Cyfarthfa and Dowlais, and the great mining valleys of Glamorgan, being responsible for this ready sale.

The farmers' wives and daughters are still adepts in the art of making good butter and cheese, and in rearing poultry. These commodities are brought into the county markets in great quantities,



and are readily purchased at excellent prices by inhabitants of the towns, and by those hucksters who carry the agricultural produce away into Glamorganshire. The growth in this latter trade has been very great. A few years ago, half a dozen women used to attend the Brecon Market with their donkey carts, and carry away small quantities of eggs and butter by road to the hills; but at the present day there are dozens of women and men engaged in this trade, and every Friday take from the same market tons of farm produce. This applies also to other markets in the agricultural portion of the county.

For some years past there has been prosperity for the farmers, and this prosperity is strikingly manifested in their domestic habits. The general practice of many of the farmers is to place certain members of their family into shops in the adjoining towns, there to learn the drapery, millinery, grocery, or other trades, and occasionally some of their sons will be found in the banking establishments or in the offices of professional men. But, as evidence that the business of farming is not unremunerative, the farmer generally arranges that one of his sons is brought up in the business and so secure the succession to the old farm when the days of sowing and reaping shall have no further attractions for himself. For it should be here observed that the same farms have been for generations occupied by members of the same family; and at a recent sale in the county on one of the farms the present tenant told the writer that his people had been farming that same farm for over 150 years; and he was continuing the farm now that his father was dead.





## CHAPTER IV.

**The Archdeaconry of Brecknock,—Description of Brecon by Hugh Thomas and others,—Ancient Guilds,—Tolls and Fees,—Borough Charters,—Capital Burgesses,—Corporate Revenues,—St. John's (Priory) Church,—Ancient and Modern Monuments.**

THE archdeaconry of Brecon, or Brecknock, in the diocese of Saint David's (writes Theophilus Jones), contains the whole of Brecknockshire and Radnorshire, except the parishes of Knighton, Norton, Presteigne, Old and New Radnor, and a very small part of Cascob in the latter county, two parishes in Montgomeryshire in North Wales, seven parishes in Herefordshire, and two parishes in Monmouthshire. It consists of seven deaneries, and one hundred and twenty-four parishes. The deaneries are called Melenydd, Elvel or Elvel ysmynydd, Builth, Hay, and the first, second, and third parts of Brecon.

Melenydd contains

1 In Montgomeryshire, Kerry	9 Llananno	17 Llanbadarn fawr
2 Moughtreff	10 Llanbadarn fynydd	18 Whitton
3 Radnorshire, St. Harman	11 Llanfihangel-rhydithon	19 Pilleth
4 Llansaintfred Cwmytoiddwr	12 Llanddewy Ystradenny	20 Heyop
5 Nantmel	13 Llandegley	21 Bleddfa
6 Llanyre	14 Llanfihangel Cefnlllys	22 Cascob
7 Llanfihangel-fach-helygen	15 Llandrindod	23 Beguildy
8 Llanbister	16 Llangunllo	24 Rhayadrgwy

The whole of Elvel, except a part of the parish of Glasbury, is likewise in Radnorshire, and comprises

1 Llanfihangel nant melan	9 Llanbadarn y garreg	17 Llanelwedd
2 Gladestry	10 Bryngwyn	18 Llanstephan
3 Glaschw	11 Aberedw	19 Boughrwd
4 Colva	12 Llanfared	20 Llowes
5 Rhulen	13 Disserth	21 Llandewi fach
6 Newchurch	14 Bettws Disserth	22 Clyro
7 Llanbedr Pains castle	15 Llansantfred in Elvel	23 Glasbury
8 Cregrina	16 Llandilo-graban	

The deanery of Builth comprehends the following parishes, all in Breconshire,

1 Llanwrthwl	7 Llanwrtid	13 Llanfair in Builth
2 Llanafanfawr	8 Llanddewi-bergwessin	14 Llanddewi'r cwm
3 Llanfechan	9 Llanlleonfel	15 Llangynog
4 Llanfihangel Abergwessin	10 Llanganten	16 Alltmawr
5 Llanfihangel brynpabuan	11 Maesmynis	17 Tyr yr abad alias Llandulas
6 Llangammarch	12 Llanynis	

Hay was divided prior to the commencement of the seventeenth century into two deaneries, called Hay Herefordshire and Hay Breconshire; the district is now however known by the general name of the deanery of Hay, and contains the following seven parishes in Herefordshire.

1 Clodock	7 Llancillo, Heref.	13 Llan-Elyw
2 St. Margaret's	8 Cwmyoi and	14 Llyswen
3 Ewyas Harold	9 Oldeastle in Monmouthshire	15 Gwenddwr
4 Michael Church Escley	10 Hay, Breconshire	16 Llandefalle
5 Walterstone	11 Llanigon	17 Crickadarn and
6 Rowlstone	12 Bronllys	18 Talachddu.

The remainder of which county is divided into three deaneries, called the first, second, and third parts of Brecon.

The first part of Brecon,

1 Llanfihangel nant bran	5 Aberyscir	9 Garthbreny
2 Llandilo'r fan	6 Battle	10 Saint John the Evangelist's
3 Trallwng	7 Llandefaillog	11 Saint Mary's
4 Merthyr Cynog	8 Llanddew	



## The second part of Brecon,

1 Penderin	4 Saint David's	7 Ystradfellte
2 Callwen	5 Vainor	8 Llanspyddid
3 Devynock	6 Ystradgynlais	9 Llywel

## The third part of Brecon,

1 Talgarth	9 Patrishow	17 Llanfrynach
2 Llandefaillog tre'r graig	10 Llanelly	18 Llangasty tal y llyn
3 Llanbedr Ystradyw	11 Cathedine	19 Llanfihangel tal y llyn
4 Llangattock juxta Crickhowel	12 Saint Michael Cwmdru	20 Llandetty
5 Llangeney	13 Llangorse	21 Llanhamlach
6 Crickhowel	14 Llanywern	22 Cantreff
7 Llanfillo	15 Llansantfred juxta Usk	
8 Llangynidr	16 Llanfigan	

The archdeaconry now (1900) contains nine deaneries, composed as follow :—

BRECON (1st PART.)—Aberyskir, Battle, Saint John's Brecon, Saint Mary's Brecon, Dyffryn Honddu (otherwise Upper Chapel) in Merthyr Cynog, Garthbreny, Llanddew, Llandefaillogfach, Llandefalle, Crickadarn, Llandilofan, Llanfihangel Nantbran, Llanfihangel fechan, Merthyr Cynog, Talachddu, Trallwng.

BRECON (2nd Part.)—Bettws Penpont, Callwen, Chapel Coelbren, Saint Ilid Cray, Devynnock, Saint David's Llanfaes Brecon, Christ College Chapel, Llanilltyd, Llanspyddid, Llywel, Rhydybriw, Penderin, Traianglas, Ystradfellte, Ystradgynlais.

BRECON (3rd PART.)—Cantreff, Capel Nantddu, Cathedine, Glyncollwng (in Llanfigan), Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llanywern, Llanfrynach, Llangasty-Talyllyn, Llangorse, Llanhamlach, Llansaintffread juxta Usk, Llanfigan, Llanfillo, Llandefaillog-tregraig, Talgarth, Vaynor.

BUILTH.—Alltmawr, Builth, Eglwys Oen Duw, Gwenddwr, Llanafanfawr, Llanfihangel brynpabuan and Llanafan fechan, Llanddewi'r Cwm, Llanfihangel Abergwessin, Llanddewi Abergwessin, Llangam-mach, Llanganten, Llangynog, Llanlleonfel, Llanwrtyd, Maesmynis with Llanynis, Tir abad (otherwise Llandulas) Llanwrtyd.

CRICKHOWELL.—Brynmawr St. Mary, Capel Taf-fechan (in Llanthetty), Crickhowell, Llanbedr Ystradw, Patricio, Llanelly, Llanfihangel Cwmdru, Llangattock, Llangenny, Llangynidr, Llanthetty, Tretower.

ELWEL.—Aberedw with Llanfaredd, Cregina with Llanbadarn-y-garreg, Cwmbach-Llechryd, Disserth, Gladestry, Glascombe and Colva and Rhuler, Llanelwedd, Llanfihangel Nantmelin, Llansaintffread in Elwel, Bettws Disserth.

HAY.—Boughrood, Bronllys, Bryngwyn, Capel-y-ffin in Llanigon, Clyro, with Bettws Clyro, Glasbury, Glasbury All Saints, Hay, Llanbedr Painscastle, Llanddewi-fach, Llandilo Graban, with Llanstephan, Llanelieu, Llanigon, Llowes, Llyswen, Newchurch.

MELINETH SUB ITHON.—Beguildy (and St. Peter), Bleddfa, Cascob, Heyope, Llanbadarn fynydd, Llanano, Llanbister, Llanddewi Ystradenny with Llanfihangel Rhydithon, Llangynllo, Pilleth, Whitton.

MELINETH ULTRA ITHON.—Abbey Cwmhir, Cefnlllys and Holy Trinity Llandrindod Wells, Cwmtoyddwr, St. Harmons, Llaebadarn fawr, Llanfihangel Heligen with Llanyre, Llanwrthwl, Nantmel, Newbridge on Wye, Rhayadergwy.

The Archdeacon of Brecknock has now a fixed stipend of £400 a year, and generally holds some preferment in addition to this. The late Archdeacon de Winton succeeded Archdeacon Davics, of Courtygollen, and held Llandrindod; he was followed by the Rev. W. L. Bevan, canon of St. David's, who for a time held the living of Hay, and upon his resignation of the archdeaconry, his son, the Rev. E. L. Bevan, vicar of Brecon, was appointed. The Archdeacon is patron of the benefices of St. David's (Brecon) Llanddew, Llowes, and Llanddewi-fach, near Hay. In Theophilus Jones time, the Archdeacon possessed the great tithes of the parish of St. David's in Brecon, of Llanddew, of the hamlet of Penpont, of Llowes, of Llanstephan, and Llanddewi-fach; he had also in right of his dignity a tenement in the parishes of Llanrhian and Mathrey in Pembrokeshire called Torrbant, consisting of 320 acres of land, and was intitled to procurations from the clergy of the archdeaconry and many of the impropiators of tithes within that jurisdiction. The Archdeacon holds an annual visitation, and his present Registrar is Molyneux F. Thomas, Esq., Solicitor, Brecon.

Among the papers of Archbishop Sancroft, in the Bodleian library, is a very curious letter, or return made to a commission by him issued to inquire into a dispute between the bishops of Saint David's and



Gloucester, in the year 1664, upon the right of visiting, claimed by the latter, who was then archdeacon of Brecon. It is dated the 8th of October in the above year, and proceeds thus to address the primate :

May it please your Grace,

We thought it our duty to represent to you what happened between the bishop of Saint David's and the Bishop of Gloucester, in the case of the archdeaconrie of Brecon; wee waiting upon my lord bishoppe of Gloucester, who with his servants came late to the town of Brecon on Saturday night, when the archdeacon of Carmarthen and one Edwards a minister (as they call him) askt the bishop of Gloucester where the bishop of Saint David's should wait upon him, who replied hee stood not upon equal grounds, he was an archdeacon and so ono of his clergy and owed him canonicall obedience which he would as readily performe as any priest of them all, with which expression (when related) the bishop of St. David's was so taken that he promised to give him a visit and accordingly on Monday morning did and after a few complaints the bishop of Saint David's sayd he stood upon two things: he would not see his clergy oppressed or his officers deprived of their fees. To which the bishop of Gloucester replied, he would endeavour to take such care that neither bishop or archdeacon should oppresse and hoped his lordship had better thoughts of him. I doubt not you, but know not what your successors may doe, and withall my lord you promised you would not visitt without my leave, which the bishop of Gloucester denyed, the other constantly and passionately affirmed, nay then sayd the bishop of Gloucester if you say this you may say any thing, and here arose such a tempest as we feare to tell and are not able to relate. Passion itself was in a passion the bishop of Saint David's crying out ho gives me the lye, he gives me the lye, lets begon and went away. After this wee opened our commission, swore some witnesses and adjourned to sit in a warmer place than a miserable open ruinous church, the object of every good christian's pitty, tho nobodies relief in that place. Our proceedings were oxcepted against for the misnomer of the place where wee opened our commission and yet my lord of Saint David's sent three commissioners to sitt with us, two of which were lustily engaged in the parliament or army's service against the king and well rewarded for their pains, as we are credibly informed. Much pressing there was for accomodacon, whether sincerely or pretendedly we know not, but were very ready to embrace any thing that looked that way, and prevailed upon the bishop of Gloucester *cedere de jure*. On Tuesday morning came one Mr. Williams, whether sent or not is not ours to determine; willing he was to be mediator and accepted and carried to the bishop of Saint David's the bishop of Gloucester's concessions and condescensions, which were accepted as the said Williams reported, whereupon wee desisted from the farther prosecution of our commission.

After dinner the bishop of Gloucester caused the terms of accommodation to be drawn up into an act by a public notary, when he was received with a *beati pacifici*, Englisht by a lady (as the bishop of Saint David's sayd) *putt up thy dagger jamee*, but after he had perused the act and received the whispering and instructions of one Nicholas, a parliament, or army creature, one that denyed the bishop of Gloucester archdeacon of Brecon's *procurons*, the bishop of Saint David's fell into an old proverb *festina lente* and sayd he would not be surprized but would take time to consider.

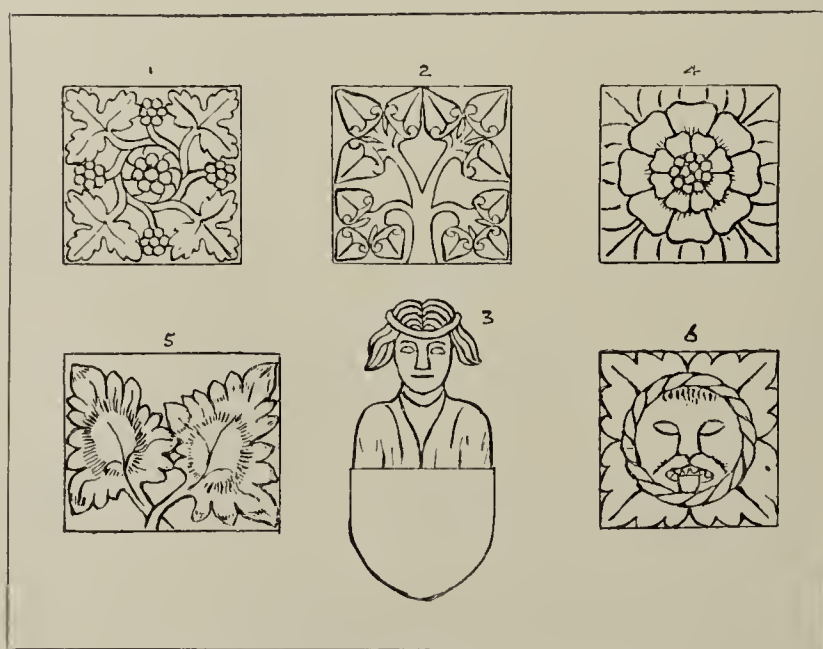
Whereupon the bishop of Gloucester desiring to know when he should know his mind tooke leave and departed and wee to our commission againe. About 9 at night came the above named Mr. Williams with the bishop of St. David's resolutions drawn up into an act, wherein the former accord was slighted and the archdeacon's jurisdiction reduced to a *tantummodo citare* and *procurons*, which the bishop of Gloucester utterly dislikt and resolved for his return to Gloucester next day early. After all this, between 10 and 11 o'clock at night, the bishop of Gloucester being in bed, the bishop of Saint David's sent to invite him to dinner the next day, for which he thanked him but told the messenger he had taken orders for his journey and the next day entered into it. This is the true narration and wee most humbly crave your pardon for detaining you so long.

Your Grace's daily beadesmen,

ANTHONY ANDREWS,  
THOMAS CARLES.

October 8, 1664.

But to return to Breconshire. This county is divided into six hundreds: Merthyr, Builth, Talgarth, Crickhowel, Penkelly, and Devynock. In the centre of these districts, but at the southern extremity of the hundred of Merthyr, is situated the town of Brecknock, upon the conflux of the rivers Usk and Honddu, from whence it is called in the British language Aberhonddu.



BOSSES IN PRIORY CHURCH.  
(See page 93.)



## BRECON.

AMONG the parishes in the Hundred of Merthyr, Saint John the Evangelist's and Saint Mary's first require attention, inasmuch as within their precincts is included the town of Brecknock, where no inconsiderable part of the wealth of the county centres, and most part of the public business is transacted. It has been seen that some authors talk of the destruction and spoiling of Brecknock by the Saxons and other invaders long before the year 1091; but it is more than probable that until that period the banks of the Honddu, where it falls into the Usk, were covered with verdure: and it is certain, that if there were a few straggling cottages where this town is now situated, it was not until the Norman invasion considered as the principal town, and that it owes its consequence to the demolition of Caerbannau and the building of the castle by Bernard Newmarch.

## HUGH THOMAS' DESCRIPTION OF BRECON TOWN IN 1698.

From a manuscript Essay towards a history of Brecknockshire, by Hugh Thomas, written in 1698, we gather a description of the town of Brecon in that year. Its walls were then in good repair. "It hath four gates for entrance, the Watton Gate in the east, the Stoned (? Struet) Gate in the north, the other two in the south west very near each other, divided by one house only: the greater of the two is called the Bridge Gate because it opens a passage to the town from one of the strongest and fairest *stone* bridges in the kingdom; it crosses Usk upon seven arches. The other opens exactly to the water side, therefore called the Water Gate: it is the least of the town gates, and leads westward to a stone bridge of three arches over the river Honddu. Upon the west of Honddu is seen the ruin of a large and spacious castle built four square upon a very high mount, having two watch towers at each corner; which castle had a passage over the river Honddu into the town by a stone bridge of two arches, one of them being to be drawn up at pleasure.

"The Priory for its greatness and inclosures looks more like a town than a private residence, having no less than three great gates for entrance into the outer court. This formerly belonged to the monks, but at the dissolution of the monasteries was, by King Henry VIII., given to the great antiquary, Sir John Price, knight; it is now (1698) in the possession of Jeffrey Jeffreys, Esq., late Burgess in Parliament for this Borough.

"In the middle of the town is a large Chapel of Ease dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in which are six bells, a quarter clock, and chimes at every third hour. Hard by stands the Guild Hall, for keeping the town and county courts, and Great Sessions, the record house, council chamber, town clerk's office, and magazine, the fairest in all Wales.

"For the education of youth, without the walls of the town stands the College. It was once a priory of Friars medicant, the Church being dedicated to St. Nicholas. The founder [of the monastery?] is unknown, but the confounder was King Henry VIII. in the one and thirtieth year of his reign [from which we gather a leaning towards the tenets of Romanism: a Brecon man would naturally rejoice at the establishment of the College at Brecon]. The Chancel of the Church only was standing in 1698; it had been repaired by Bishop Lucy. The school had been repaired in the reign of King James by the Worshipful Jeffrey Jeffries, Esq.

"By the water gate in the east part of the town stands the county goal, built 1690, which of its bigness is as strong and handsome as any on this side England or Wales."

There were four hundred families dwelling in the borough when Hugh Thomas wrote, scarce 30 of English name and descent. Of all that came over with the Conquest, there was but one remaining, that was John Walbeoff of Llanhamlach, Esquire. Some of the Walbeoff family were living in 1899, but they had come to poverty. Thomas continues,

"The town under Charter 1556 is governed by a recorder, and fifteen common councilmen, who for their chief chose yearly from themselves a bailiff and two aldermen for the better execution of justice. Whenever one of the Council die they are empowered to make choice of a burgess to supply his place. Besides they were to choose a town clerk, two chamberlains, the serjeant at mace, and 24 constables, two constables for each of the twelve wards into which the borough was divided. The twelve wards of Brecon: High Street superior, High Street inferior, Ship Street, St. Mary's,



Morgannwg, Cantref Selif, Old Port superior, Old Port inferior, Watton, Heol Rudd, Llanfaes, Trecastle. The town courts to be held every Monday and Thursday. His Majesty hath also a steward, always a barrister at law, holding office for life, to hold courts leet.

“And whereas the town groaned under the heavy burden by the payment of £120 to the Crown for their liberties, they (Philip and Mary) of their Royal bounty not only forgave arrears but also abated £100 of the amount of the former rents and took of them only £20 chief rents, and in token of their releasing them from their former oppressions they gave them a boar for their arms or common seal, luna, a mantle of state, mars, double ermined, bush, sol, garnished with strings fashioned thereunto firstwise, dependents tasselled of the same—[of which it may be necessary to explain that in heraldry luna means white, mars red, sol yellow]. This mantle is a robe peculiar to Emperors, and Kings, and Free States; whereas formerly the town seal was the arms belonging to the Bohuns. And for the better commeree of trade their Majesties granted their authority to hold three markets in the week, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, of which Friday is for cattle.

“King James II. in the first year of his reign gave them a Charter for a May fair, and to keep another fair on St. George’s day. This charter was only in force for three years, when it was revoked by the King, yet they make it a custom ever since to keep a great market on St. George’s day.

“The first six of the aforementioned wards are enelosed within the walls of the town, and contain 152 families, all having very fair stone built houses. The streets are handsome and broad, not having above seven thatched houses within the walls. The other six wards are without the walls, and are limited as follows: The Watton ward contains all the lands from the town wall to the brook Brynieh, in length about a mile, being the uttermost extent of the parish eastward. In this ward are eighteen families, all in a row from the town gate. In it stands a county gaol or house of correction, and within less than a quarter of a mile from the town gate stands a great barn, in possession of Mr. John Waters, ironmonger, called the Spittle, of which there is a tradition that is was once a hospital, or chapel belonging to the family of Games of Newton.

“Edward Games (father of Sir John Games of Newton, knight) was instrumental in obtaining from Philip and Mary the Charter which abated £100 fees, and being much in arrear for his Parliament fees, the Borough gave him the hospital and lands thereto belonging as a reward for his services. Tradition says it was once a church. An old deed gives to Sir Thomas Howell, chaplain, ‘All the lands belonging to St. Catherine in the suburbs.’ St. Catherine is not to be found and may have been the same as this hospital; a font is (1698) to be seen there, stairs which led to a pulpit, the ground adjoining is called the Churchyard, where formerly there stood yew trees, and skulls and human bones have been taken up there.

“Heol Rudd ward contains all the lands to the north east of the town to the parishes of Llanthew and Llanhamlach. In this ward there stands another chapel of ease called by the St. Taylaw (?), now vacant and unused. If formerly belonged to the Priory, the land for maintaining a priest to say mass is in possession of Sir Edward Williams of Gwernevet, Knight, the ward hath in it fourteen families.

“Old Port inferior contains all the lands on the banks of the Honddu from the ‘Stronod’ gate northward to the parish of Llanddew. It hath in it 37 families, all save one or two in a fair broad street from the town gate to the Priory bridge; it is called the Stronod; only ten houses are thatched.

“Old Port superior contains all the lands on the west and north west of the town at least a mile every way; this is the greatest ward in the whole town. In it stands the parish Church of St. John the Evangelist, the Priory, and Castle; it hath three stone bridges leading to it over the Honddu: The Priory Bridge, the Castle Bridge, and Aberhonddu Bridge. It contains 65 families.

“Llanfaes ward is divided from the parish of St. John by the river Usk, and is in the parish of St. David. It is connected with the town by the great bridge. It extends itself to the south west in a broad street about half a mile long from Usk Bridge to a fair stone bridge of four arches over the river Tarrell. In this street stands the College and the parish church of St. David’s, and several fair new-built houses; it hath 58 families. Llanfaes almost surrounded by the rivers Usk and Tarrell, which latter in time of flood comes down in a great stream through the middle of the street, and so into every house in the ward, doing much damage.

“Trecastle ward is in the parish of Llowall, eight miles from the town.

“The common men—(what a slip of the pen!)—except four, are esquires of great fortune and rank. Ten have dwellings within the walls, and two more in the town. *Extra muros.* John Jeffries of the Priory, and Jeffrey Jeffries late Burgess in Parliament for the town; Thomas Morgan of



Tredegar, now (1698) Burgess in Parliament for this Borough; Thomas Walker, Recorder; Howell Jones, High Sheriff for the County, and bailiff for the Town; W. Philips, His Majesty's Steward for the Borough; Robert Lucy, Registrar of the Diocese, and son of Bishop Lucy [and several others. How the worthy historian rolls their names upon his tongue—great citizens, future subscribers it may be to the history which is still in manuscript; some of them names we have read of before, one at least is worthy of note, as being of still greater repute; and some have passed into limbo.]

“For the trade of the town it is such that there is hardly a shop keeper of any continuance but hath an estate. The grandfather of Sir Wm. Lewis of Llangorst was a mercer of the town, so was the grandfather of John Jeffries, Esq., whose great estates were chiefly purchased by their trades. The language is generally Welsh, as good as any in Wales. As for the air of the town, there is none wholesomer in the Kingdom, yet it hath lately been troubled with the bloody flux [typhoid or dysentery perhaps] which in the year 1695 was so violent that between May and December it was common to see three or four burials in a day. The distemper was generally over most of South Wales, but hath now, in 1698, ceased. God make us thankful for his mercies!”

## CAMDEN'S DESCRIPTION.

Camden, in his description of this county, tells us that “Usk falling headlong from the Black Mountain, and forcing a deep channel, passes by Brecknock, the chief town of the county, placed almost in the centre thereof. This town, the Britons (says he) call Aberhondhy, from the confluence of the two rivers, Hondhy and Usk. That it was inhabited in the time of the Romans is *evident*, from several coyns of their emperours found there.” It is painful, as well as imprudent, to differ with such men as Camden and Leland, but when *one* talks of having entered Saint Iltid's hermitage, that it is a hut eight feet long and four wide, and when *the other* states the danger of being drowned in the Wye, *in crossing it between the Black Mountain and Hay*; whatever merit these authors may be intitled to for their general accuracy, a native of Brecknockshire cannot avoid doubting whether either of these ancient *tourists* ever was in this country, and he will perhaps, with good reason, conclude that they gained their information of the distant parts of the kingdom from some correspondents, of whose attention and correctness they formed too high an opinion. In the extract given above, Camden decides without hesitation, that Brecknock was as antient as the time of the Romans; and assumes a fact which he has not proved, and which must by no means be admitted. With the advantage of a residence in this place, and a fondness for inquiries of this nature, we have not been able to learn that coins of the Roman emperors have ever been found at Brecon,<sup>1</sup> though many such have been discovered at Caerbannau, as well as at Llanfrynach; but even if this information were correct, the finding of a few coins, without any corroborating circumstances, is not sufficient to justify an opinion, much less a conclusion, that the place where they were discovered is the site of a Roman station or city. Especially in this case, when it is recollected that the Strata Julia from Caerbannau to Gaer in Cwmdy and Gobannium ran close to what was afterwards called the *Struet* gate. The residence of the reguli of Brecknock, until the time of its subjugation by the Normans, was (as has been seen) undoubtedly three miles higher up the river Usk, from whence we are told, the conqueror disliking the situation, and preferring that of Brecknock, ‘by reason of the straits,’ brought all the materials of the old town, that were worth carrying, to his new habitation. The building thereof of Brecon, or at least of the greatest part of it, cannot be attributed to an earlier period than 1092: indeed, if an anonymous chronicle in Leland be correct, the castle, which for his own security the successful invader first attended to, was not completed till the year 1094. ‘*Franci ædificunt Castellum in Brekniauc*,’ says this document; it is true the year is not here specifically stated, but from occurrences recorded in the preceding lines, there are reasons for concluding the castle was not finished before the year above mentioned. When this work was completed, we may suppose the conqueror caused his new town to be surrounded by a wall, for the protection of such of his followers and others as might chose to settle in his neighbourhood for the purpose of trade, and to supply the wants of his garrison.

## THE OLD TOWN WALL AND GATES.

This wall was perfect in Speed's time, and indeed until the demolition of the castle in the time of Charles the First. Its track or course is now perfectly visible, as is the old wall itself in some places. It commenced at the south east end of the drawbridge, leading from the Postrwm or

<sup>1</sup> Hugh Thomas has the same observation, “As to the antiquity of the town (says he,) it hath been of good note ever since the Norman conquest, but what it was before I know not; having not in eight years since I have lived here, seen or heard of any old Roman coins, stones, bricks, or inscriptions, found in or near it, although I have seen much of the castle walls digged up, and several fair large houses built in the town.” He then proceeds to add, after noticing the conquest by Bernard Newmarch, “for this reason, and because I find the inhabitants hereof wore wholly English for several hundred years after, and finding nothing of great antiquity in it, I presume that this might have been the first foundation of the town.”



Postern gate of the castle, from hence to the Struet gate it is no longer visible, being concealed by a range or row of houses, which have covered and concealed it, and its materials have been converted to building them many years ago. From thence, after crossing the last mentioned gate, it divided the gardens appurtenant to the houses in Lion lane, from those in the possession of the late Pennoyre Watkins, esq.; then into a field called Clawdd y Gaer, or fortification dike, and here the whole ditch and much of the walls are still visible. Having crossed this field nearly from east to west, it rounded south west to the Watton gate, following the wall of what is called the Captain's walk to the Usk, to which it kept nearly adjoining, turning northward to the foot of the bridge, from whence it went to Porth y dwr, or the Watergate, and the lower bridge upon Honddu; from this place upwards to the bridge, where we set out, the castle, situated upon a small but precipitous eminence, with the river at the foot of it, formed an impenetrable barrier.

This oval (for such upon a view of the plan<sup>1</sup> given elsewhere it will appear to be) measured, according to Speed, 640 paces, or 1,066 yards and 2 feet, on the inner side of which was a raised walk or terrace, by which means the inhabitants, in case of a siege, were enabled to cover themselves from attack by the parapets, at the same time that the height was such that they might discharge their arrows or musketry through the embrasures. On the outward side of this wall was a deep foss or ditch, the remains of which are still very visible, and which there is great reason for believing was occasionally filled with water, so that the town of Brecon within the walls was completely insulated by the Honddu and the Usk. How or where this water could be conducted from one river to the other does not appear, but we are supported in our conjecture by Leland, who says 'ther apperith digging wher men laborid to bring a peace of Hondy about to insulate Breckenok with hit and Wiske,' and though the fall from the eastern side of the drawbridge to the Usk at the Captain's Walk is small, yet perhaps by a cut taken from above, and running collaterally with the Honddu, the project might have been feasible.

On this wall were ten towers or turrets at nearly equal distances, but of irregular constructions and shapes, some of them being semicircular, the round side outwards, and others square. One stood on the eastern side of the Castle lane, and was the first taken down; the next stood between the gardens belonging to Penry Williams, esq., and the late Mr. Pennoyre Watkins; the third in Clawdd y Gaer, opposite the garden appurtenant to the Lion inn; the fourth adjoined the same field and was semicircular, part of it now remains where the reverend William Morgan has built a green house; the fifth was in the garden of the reverend Thomas James; the sixth was where the late Mr. Bullock Lloyd built a summer house; the seventh, which was semicircular, was in the garden of the late Major Awbrey; the eighth in a garden lately occupied by the reverend Robert Wynter; the ninth where the summer house of Mr. Thomas Williams, attorney, is built; and the tenth (underneath which was one of the town gates) was close to the river Usk at the bottom of Mr. Maybery's garden, from whence to the bridge, the river Usk and its steep and abrupt banks, were considered as a sufficient protection.

#### ENTRANCES TO THE TOWN.

The entrances into the town at the time this wall was perfect, were through five gates; the two first seem to have been entrances into the Priory, and now remain in part, the one leads into what has been since converted into a farm yard, and the other, which was entered upon coming from the castle, now faces the back part of Mr. Wilkin's house at the Priory. Leland says there were four, but enumerates seven: 'the town of Brekenok (says he) is well waullid, with iiii gates old Port superior, as the hygate by north, westgate by the black Freers, they be in the suburbs, East gate [since, called the struet gate], Water gate, cambrice Porth hene hichea, [Porth y dwr, or the higher water gate] i.e. superior, the old gate Portbont Bridgate, alias westgate, [Porth y bont or the gate near the bridge over the Usk] Port issa, the lower gate, alias east gate, [Porth issa, or Watton gate] and Port dower, water gate, alias Portwiske.' Porth y dwr issa, neu Porthwysc, the lower Watergate, or gate near the Usk, i.e., at the bottom of Mr. Maybery's garden.

Thus insulated, and thus fortified, Brecknock must have been tolerably strong, and the inhabitants secure from a sudden attack or a siege until the invention of artillery; but upon the discovery of those tremendous instruments of destruction, it could not have been tenable for a day, as it is so completely commanded on all sides by the nearly surrounding heights. Indeed, even before the use of musketry, or at least of cannon, we have seen it frequently attacked with success; for though

<sup>1</sup> This ichnographical survey of the town of Brecon was copied from another drawn by a Meredith Jones, land surveyor, in 1744, obligingly lent by Edward Morgan, esq., the recorder. The streets, lanes and roads, within and leading from the town are so accurately described and delineated, and are so like what they are at this day (1800) that it appeared to deserve publication. The course of the wall, though now imperfect, may as well be preserved. Speed's ichnography of Brecon published in 1610, is incorrect in several respects.



the walls, thus strengthened by the towers and moat, could not easily be surmounted by assailants, yet if the besiegers were furnished with engines to throw ignited matter to the distance of one hundred yards, the ramparts could not be raised to such a height as to intercept their projection, or prevent their descent, when the houses, being composed principally of wood and thatch, must have been easily reduced to ashes.

## THE EMINENCES ROUND BRECON.

The surrounding heights near Brecon have just now been alluded to, which makes it necessary for the information of such of our readers as may reside at a distance, that we should describe briefly how this town is situated. Adams, in his *Index Villaris*, places it in 52-1 north latitude, 3-21 west longitude from London. Hugh Thomas says, the reverend Jeremiah Griffiths, schoolmaster of the college, told him it was in 52-6 longitude, 3-13 west, but we believe Adams is correct. On the south east it is commanded and almost overlooked by an eminence, which in England would be thought a considerable hill, but which is here called Slwch tump; upon the east after a steep ascent near the top, we descend to a step, the superficies of which extends nearly to the town of Brecon, and stretches northerly as it approaches to Llanddew. North, or N.N.W. again we have another eminence called Pen y crug, shelving down gradually towards the middle of the descent to Brecon, so that the traveller approaching it from Hay, Battle, or Builth, finds the town below him. On the southern side is Cantreff and a brow covered with wood, called Clos y coed, the foot of which is washed by the river Usk. This ascent terminates before we approach the town from Abergavenny; and at a gate, called the Watton gate, we have again a gentle rise upon entering Brecon, as there is also immediately after crossing the bridge over the Usk in the road from Carmarthenshire. A few yards above this bridge the river Honddu falls into the Usk, and on the west the town is separated from the suburb called Llanvaes by the latter river. The distance from the lower end of the Watton to the upper end of Llanvaes is about a mile; to the gates leading to Builth and Battle, something less; and the breadth from the upper end of the Struet to the wall of the Captain's walk may be about three or four hundred yards.

## THE CORPORATION BOUNDARY.

We have not been able minutely to trace the boundary of the corporation, although we have described the larger circuit of the county accurately. Both the charters granted to this corporation, the one by Philip and Mary, and the other by James II. authorize the bailiff or mayor to make perambulations to ascertain the boundaries; but this very useful provision has been so very little attended to during the last century, that we cannot find any person who is able to inform us correctly as to some parts of the line. On the N.W. it is however well known to commence with the fall of the Tarell into the Usk, up the former stream until nearly opposite Ffrwd grech mill, here turn southwardly and afterwards to the east until we come to a brook called Nant y ceiliog at the bottom of Dafoden, which follow to its fall into the Usk. From the Tarell to the Usk this boundary is not clearly ascertained, all that is known seems to be that it runs through part of the farms called Baili helyg and Pen y lan.

From the *aber* of Nant y ceiliog, the Usk divides the corporation from the county as far as the river Cynrig; here cross the Usk, up the Brynich, to Slwch and the forge upon Honddu; during the whole of this distance the boundary of the corporation follows that of the chapelry of Saint Mary's. Upon crossing the Honddu we proceed northward; how far is not ascertained, nor is the line from hence to a brook falling into the Usk near Pennant house accurately known, further than it crosses part of Pontwilym farm and afterwards Glwydi, when it pursues the course of the above mentioned brook, and then the river Usk downwards until we come opposite to the Tarell where this tour terminates.

## ANCIENT GOVERNMENT AND TRADES OF THE TOWN.

This borough is governed, say the geographers, and most of the English topographers, by *two* bailiffs, fifteen aldermen, two chamberlains, two constables, a town clerk and other inferior officers, to whom various immunities were at different times granted. This account, which has been copied by one writer from another for these last two hundred years, is erroneous, though it is by no means improbable that the author from whom it is originally derived was correct. The charters granted to the inhabitants of this borough by the lords of Brecon have been briefly noticed; we have copies of most of them, but they do not appear to be sufficiently interesting either to the historian or the antiquary to merit insertion, especially as the substance has been already related.

To induce persons, skilled in trade and useful occupations, to settle within the town, to supply the lords and their garrison with the necessaries of food and raiment, it is probable that these barons marchers granted other privileges, exclusive of those mentioned in the above grants; the principal



of which was a monopoly of the different articles in which they dealt, in preference to strangers and accidental or wandering traders, and even to the lower ranks resident in the town, for it appears, by certain documents in the corporation chest, that in the reign of Henry 8th, no chenser (the meaning of which word has been explained to be villeyne, or person holding a base tenure) should be permitted to occupy any principal craft, viz., baking, brewing, mercery, butchery, wine, honey, iron, or any other merchandize. Here we see these selfish traders establishing a precedent for the exclusion of their fellow subjects from a natural or at least a social right, for which it will be found hereafter they were repaid in the same manner by the loss of their elective franchise; if indeed the restraint of a power, which, when exercised by the many is generally abused, can be called a loss.

These artizans and mechanics had without doubt individually votes, not only for the better regulation of their own companies or guilds, but in the general government of the town; for it appears by a deed dated 6 Henry 8th (A.D. 1515), between Thomas Walter, then bailiff of Brecknock, and others of one part, and Thomas ap Howell capellan of the same town of the other, that this right of interference of the commonalty, in the disposition of the lands and revenues of the borough was known and acknowledged by the principal officers. By this deed, the bailiff recites, that the grant of the chapel of Saint Catherine is made by him, and certain persons therein described to be the 'twenty four, elected and chosen by all the hole town and commonalty of the same, of their assent and consent to order and govern the same;' whether when they had so delegated their power as to the general government, any part of it remained with the electors, or how often this election took place, does not sufficiently appear, nor is it perhaps material.

#### BOROUGH CHARTERS AND OFFICERS.

Thus then we see, that prior to the charter of Philip and Mary, the police of the town of Brecknock was regulated and conducted by the bailiff and twenty four of the principal inhabitants, with inferior officers of course. The bailiff had a power to appoint a deputy or deputies, for in the deed first mentioned, we read of a fine being levied before the sub-bailiffs, and we occasionally hear of '*two kings of Brentford*,' one of them called the bailiff itinerant. We have said *occasionally*, for we observe, that in 14 Edward 4th (A.D. 1416), and 15 Henry 7th (1472), William Vaughan and Edward ap Gwilym describe themselves thus, 'William Vaughan, esq., bailiff (not, *one of the bailiffs*), Edward ap Gwilym, bailiff of Brecknock.' What the duty of the bailiff itinerant was, must be left to conjecture, for to that *alone* we are compelled to resort. We conceive they were officers specially appointed and upon special occasions, like the justices itinerant in Wales, mentioned in the former volume, perhaps to enforce the laws and preserve the peace within the town of Llywel, which, though part of the corporation, is eleven miles distant from Brecon; they may also have been employed to collect the fines and superintend the payments, as well as the administration of the revenues of the borough, from whatever source they arose, and whether within or without the precinct, for there are several reasons for believing that this body corporate possessed formerly a considerable territorial property, all of which has been lost or alienated.

Besides the bailiff, the lord of Brecon anciently appointed his sheriff an officer for life, who executed the same duties (with some few exceptions) within the lordship, as are now attached to that office, throughout the kingdom. In a grant dated September 20th, 8 Henry 7th, from William Herbert, esq., *bailiff*, and the commonalty of Brecon, of a piece of ground between the town hall and the river Usk, and 'butting upon a house *pertinen servitio B. M. Virginis*' at the rent of four pence yearly, the following persons occur as witnesses, Howel ap Morgan, David ap Howell, *locum tenen* (to the bailiff), Jenkin ap Llewelyn ap Gwilym, *vicecomes*, and John ap Rosser, *Balliv. itin.*

The bailiff of Brecon, prior to the union, was, as we conceive, appointed by the lord, for though these noblemen may have permitted tradesmen to have enacted regulations for the governance of their own companies, they would hardly have permitted any person to assume a political importance or authority therein, except such as were nominated by themselves; and by the deed secondly before referred to, the twenty four only (without adding or including the bailiff), are said to be chosen by the commonalty of freemen.

#### ANCIENT FREEMEN.

This latter word is not generally understood. It is frequently supposed to consist only of a description of persons having a right to exercise a trade after seven years' apprenticeship or servitude; but this is only *one* of the privileges of a freeman, and one upon the policy of which there are various opinions. It is not peculiar to Brecon: the statute of 5 Elizabeth, c. 4., prohibits it throughout the kingdom. The necessity of this law (as far as it relates to this clause) is not recited in the preamble of the act, but it has been said, that the object of the legislature was to prevent unskilful persons from setting up in trade and imposing upon the public. This is a very poor reason, a very tottering



defence for the continuance of the prohibition; if a person using a 'trade, mystery, or occupation' (as the act expresses it), be unskilful, he will have no customers, and the evil will cure itself. On the other hand, if a man has talents to learn his business as completely in one year as many do in seven, he should be encouraged, instead of being repressed; indeed, we never knew a prosecution upon this statute which did not originate either from motives of interest or revenge. The only argument that occurs in favour of the law, arises from the uncertainties and vicissitudes in trade; and as in case of failure, persons of this description are intitled to support from the parishes in which they have resided, the community there have a claim upon their labour for a certain number of years, as a contribution to the general fund for this and other purposes; but whether the law be politic or not, it still continues, and the principal regulations of the borough are confirmed by it. This however is not the only franchise of a freeman, he is (generally speaking) within a borough what the freeholder is within the county, with this difference, the privilege of the one is gained by his personal exertions, the other follows the holding or the land: the freeman may delegate his elective franchise to a smaller part of the body corporate, he even may in some places sell and transfer his freedom, but the vote of the freeholder is inseparable from the soil, and cannot by human ingenuity be torn from it, nor can it be deputed or executed by proxy; the freeman may also lose his elective franchise by negligence and non usage for a great number of years, and the same may, by prescription, become vested exclusively in a smaller part of the body corporate. This appears to be the case at Brecknock, which undoubtedly anciently was a *democratic* borough; is now an oligarchy. Let not the reader regret the change, or lament that individuals are thus deprived of a right; let him not call it a misfortune to the place or the public, 'till he has been present at a popular election, where he may *feel* the evils that contests of that nature produce, while perhaps he is estimating the benefits likely to ensue from the general exercise of a franchise, so eagerly sought after by the unthinking multitude, for the mere purpose of abusing it.

## CHAPELS OF THE GUILDS.

But to view those freemen in their commercial relations. They consisted of five guilds<sup>1</sup> or companies; these were the weavers, tuckers, tailors, corvizors or shoemakers, and glovers or skimmers. At a very remote period they had probably their different halls, where the regulations of trade were settled and recorded; but for several centuries back they met in their respective chapels in Saint John's and Saint Mary's. The corvizors had a chapel in both churches; that which they frequented in the Priory, is on the left hand as we enter the nave of the church from the western door, and was possessed by them jointly with the tailors: the weavers and tuckers used the chapel on the right, and the skimmers had no chapel but held their halls, as they called them, under a thornbush in the church yard. From a royal ordinance in favour, or at least in confirmation of the rights of the freemen, it appears they chose their officers on *Corpus Christi*, or Thursday in Whitsun week, annually. Since the charter of Philip and Mary they met for this purpose in their chapels, in the week before Michaelmas, and the master and wardens took an oath, well and faithfully to execute their respective duties, at the same time and in the same place with the bailiff and aldermen.

From the document referred to, it appears, that for the corvizors' or shoemakers' company, four wardens were chosen 'to set good rule among them touchinge their said craft;' and strangers were prohibited from exposing to sale any 'showes, botis, buskynnes, or anie other thyng pertayning to the craft' in the market of Brecon. In return for this, they engaged under the common seal, (whether they had a seal of their own, or the common seal of the borough is meant, is not explained), that they would provide annually twelve torches to be carried in procession, on Ascension and *Corpus Christi* days, by so many apprentices; and that they would finish, according to their ability, the cloister in the Priory church yard, here called 'the church yard of the holie Rode is church,' the church of the holy rood, or, as in another document, *ecclesia sanctæ crucis*. The other crafts had most likely similar regulations and grants, but their books and proceedings in the last century were either carried away, destroyed, or lost, so that excepting this, and a few other papers preserved by Hugh Thomas, there is no written evidence to prove that such guilds ever existed.

## ANCIENT BOROUGH TOLLS AND FEES.

Prior to the attainder of the last duke of Buckingham of the name of Stafford, the corporation of Brecon paid to their lords for their protection, as well as for the grants and immunities derived from them, the annual sum of £120, which it seems was raised from the tolls, fees of court, fines

<sup>1</sup> Only five companies were in 1805 recollected or recognised, but certain regulations of the *merciers'* company were then seen bearing date in 1619, approved and confirmed by the justices of the great sessions, whereby it appeared they also were freemen, and that they chose two wardens annually, who were sworn at the same time with the bailiff; the youngest tradesman was their beadle or summoner. The fines for non attendance at their meetings were 6s. 8d. and 3s. 4d.; one half went to the bailiff, and the other half to the master of the company.



for the pardons of felons, and for other offences, licenses from brewing and baking, and from the rents of their lands and houses. The officers employed for this purpose were the serjeants, common attornies, and customers: it is remarkable, that the first, who in the time of Henry the 8th were called catch-polls, always took precedence of the attornies, and even to this day, when the absurd and mischievous prejudices of the lower ranks of people have driven sheriff's bailiffs out of society, and of course deterred reputable persons from accepting the office, the serjeants at mace are excepted out of this proscription in benefit societies. It appears that there was much form and ceremony in the election of the catch-polls, who were to give security for the due execution of the office; their duty was in the first place, to levy and collect the fees of court, and all fines and forfeitures, among which were those upon casting an arthel (as the English laws term it), fresh force, affrays and shedding blood, and assaults upon a burgess by a foreigner, or by a stranger upon stranger, and by freemen upon each other.

By the statute of 26 Henry 8th, c. 26, sect. 5, no person shall cast any thing into any court within Wales, or in the lordships' marchers of the same by the name or mean of an *arthel*, by reasons whereof the court may be letted, disturbed, or discontinued for that time, upon pain of one year's imprisonment. From the phrase of *casting an arthel*, as well the mischiefs stated as likely to ensue from such a proceeding, it is clear that the English legislature considered it in the nature of an *essoigne*, a legal apology for not appearing on the first summons, and frequently used under false pretences for the purpose of delay; the arthel, or cyd arddel of the Welsh, was undoubtedly often employed with a similar view, but the word imports in the British language a claim made by two persons to a chattel in dispute between them, and whether the claim was made to delay or to try the right, the unsuccessful party paid to the serjeants at mace of the borough of Brecon one pound and ten shillings. The word arddel is omitted by Spelman and Minsheu, but Cowel thus explains it, 'Arthel is a British word, more properly *Arddelw*, which the South Wales men write *Arddel*, and signifieth, according to Dr. Davies's dictionary, *astipulari*, *asserere*, in English to avouch, 'o delai dyn a'i ladrad yn ei law, rhaid iddo geisiaw arddelw cyfreithlawn i fwrw ei ladrad oddi wrtho;' that is, if a man be taken with stolen goods upon him (or as the English lawyers have it, if he be taken with the *mainour*), he must shew a lawful claim to them, or shew that he came lawfully by them to acquit himself of the felony.

Next to the serjeants, but, as has been observed, apparently inferior to them in rank, were the common attornies. There were only two permitted to exercise this profession in the town; part of their time, no doubt, though it is not stated in the documents to which we are referring, was occupied in the conduct of causes in the bailiff's courts, but there does not seem to have been any recorder earlier than the reign of Henry the 8th; before that time perhaps the whole of their proceedings were oral. Another part of the duty of the attornies was to collect from eight parishes within the lordship, yet without the borough of Brecknock, the sum of £26 13s. 4d. annually, for permission to buy and sell in the markets and fairs without payment of tolls, and they also received an annual sum for the use of the corporation from brewers and bakers, who were obliged to take out a licence to exercise their trades. The last office mentioned in the old corporation books, from whence these extracts were taken, is the customer or collector of the customs or tolls. His duty is obvious; one payment to be received annually by him, amounting to one pound ten shillings, is called *de la boroughe* or *boerghe*, but from whom or for what it became due is not explained, although it appears that they had here, as well as in the hundred of Builth, a drift toll upon corn or fish carried through the town, and also for cattle driven through the place, which continues to this day.

#### ARTHEL AND OTHER WELSH LAWS.

The whole of the income thus produced, amounted to nearly £120, being the sum payable from the borough to the lord and afterwards to the crown; but the statutes of Henry the 8th abolishing arthel, and some other Welsh laws and customs, having deprived them of several of the resources by which they were enabled to discharge this burden, in the reign of his son and successor, they complain heavily of the incumbrance and the deficiency of their fund, which in consequence of the laws above mentioned, was reduced to less than one half of the ancient income, but notwithstanding this, nothing appears to have been done during the life of Edward the 6th. Soon after his sister ascended the throne, by the influence of Sir John Games of Newton, with William earl of Pembroke (his relation, as he called him), £100 per annum was remitted to the inhabitants of Brecon by the crown and only £20 reserved annually to be paid by them.

#### THE PHILIP AND MARY CHARTER.

By the same interest, in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary, the charter under which the bailiff and corporation now (in 1800) act, was obtained: it sets out with a recital of the ancient charge



and the repeal of the laws and customs by which they in part levied it, and (in consequence) their inability to support the burden; it then proceeds to say that their majesties detesting exactions and extortions, at the petition of the above named earl, did grant, and thence forward the borough of Brecknock should become a body corporate and politic, by the name of the bailiff, aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Brecknock, that they shall be intitled to use a common seal, which they may break, alter and make anew at their will and pleasure; that the bailiff shall be elected, annually on Monday before Michaelmas day, by the *capital* burgesses, common council of the said borough or the major part of them, who shall be sworn before his predecessor, the aldermen, or one of them, and six capital burgesses, on Monday next after Michaelmas, well and faithfully; to execute his office; and in case of his death, while in office, the same persons are empowered to choose another bailiff, to be sworn in like manner, to conduct himself during the remainder of the year. The charter likewise proceeds, that there shall be two aldermen, a common council consisting of fifteen persons, among whom the bailiff and aldermen to be three, a recorder, town clerk, or common clerk, two chamberlains, two serjeants at mace and other officers, all of whom are to be elected by the capital burgesses, being common council men of the said borough; so that whatever doubts arose thereafter, the charter seems to have it in contemplation to create distinctions and a difference of rank in the body corporate. The aldermen, as well as the officers, are to be sworn on the same day with the bailiff, before his predecessor, the *old aldermen* and six capital burgesses, with the like power to appoint a successor in case of death, as in the bailiff's case; the recorder and common clerk, or town clerk, are in like manner to be chosen by the bailiff, aldermen, and common council, to hold their respective offices during the pleasure of their electors, but no oath is required to be administered to them. The former they require to be honest and discreet, and to have a knowledge of the laws of England; for the latter office, probity and discretion are supposed to be sufficient qualifications.

The bailiff, aldermen, and capital burgesses, are also, by this charter, empowered to appoint two chamberlains, and as many constables and other officers, to be sworn before the bailiff, aldermen and six capital burgesses, well and faithfully, to execute their offices, as the burgesses and *governors* had been accustomed to appoint; they are enabled to choose at any time upon a vacancy happening by death or otherwise in the common council, a successor, who shall take the same oath as his predecessor; the serjeants at mace, when also appointed in like manner and sworn, are required to carry maces, gilt with gold or silver, with the arms of England engraved or painted thereon, whenever they precede the bailiff throughout the town of Brecon or Llywel, the liberties and franchise of which latter precinct are hereby confirmed.

#### POWERS UNDER THE CHARTER.

The body politic, thus established, are authorized to have and hold a council house within the guild hall of the same borough, to make laws, institutions and ordinances for the better government of the municipality, to lay down rules for the regulation of trade, to make and regulate rates and assessments, to punish offenders, to hold a court of record twice a week, where all actions, real, personal and mixed, arising within the borough, are triable before the recorder, bailiff, aldermen and common clerk, or any two of them, to receive and levy, for their own use, all fines and amerciaments imposed upon the inhabitants of the borough, to have a common gaol, of which, the bailiff for the time being to be custos, to have view of frank pledge, to apprehend and try felons for crimes committed within their jurisdiction, to have the returns of writs, and the sheriff of the county, and all other officers of the crown, are prohibited from entering the liberty to execute any process therein; the bailiff is appointed sealer of weights and measures, clerk of the market and coroner within the borough; he is entitled to waifs, estrays, goods and chatels of felons convicted, and is authorized to seize and apply the same to the use of the body corporate; three weekly markets, and two fairs annually, are allowed to be held; the former on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and the latter upon Saint John the Baptist's and Saint Leonard's in every year, each fair to continue two days; the bailiff, aldermen and recorder, are constituted justices of the peace within their jurisdiction, and the common clerk is clerk of the peace within the same; but it is ordained, *that no inhabitant shall enjoy any of the liberties and franchises aforesaid, unless he be continually resident and conversant within the borough and town (Llywel) aforesaid, or in one of them.*

#### EXEMPTIONS PERMITTED.

The burgesses are exempted from serving the offices of assessors or collectors of taxes due to the crown out of the borough, and also from the payment of toll *throughout the kingdom*; the burgesses, residing within the town, are not liable to serve on juries with foreigners at the great sessions, nor are they compellable to appear without the walls of Brecon before any judge or justice appointed by the crown, the chief justice of the county of Brecon only excepted. Their right to waste soils, and the revenues arising therefrom, is confirmed; they are permitted to nominate and appoint as many



## THE HISTORY OF BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

armed men, provided with competent and sufficient weapons and harness for the wars, as shall be assigned by the crown from time to time; no man shall sue another for causes arising within the liberty; *the bailiff, aldermen and burgesses of the said borough, may make any of the inhabitants free citizens of the borough, upon their taking an oath to obey those officers for the time being, in all things lawful, and to defend the liberties and franchises of the borough to the utmost of their power.*

## REDUCTIONS OF RENTS DUE TO THE CROWN.

The better to enable the corporation to discharge the rent to the crown, which by this charter is reduced from £120 to £20 per annum, they are authorized to take grants or devises of manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, to the value of £20 a year, notwithstanding any law or statute to the contrary. There are also some further regulations and provisions therein, such as that the precinct of the Priory shall be considered to be within, and to form a part of the borough; the bailiff and other members are authorized to make a perambulation as often as necessary, to ascertain the boundaries of the borough; and the whole conclude with a general pardon for past offences, a remission of arrears and forfeitures, a release of all former dues to the crown, and a general confirmation of their ancient liberties.

Some of these concessions were as extravagant as they were illegal. Among those of this description, are the exemptions from tolls throughout the kingdom, and from appearance in any court but their own: the crown can, no doubt, bestow honours, privileges or immunities, but not at the expense of the subject, much less can it alter or control the administration of the laws. Neither Philip and Mary, or James the Second could therefore deprive any magistrate of his right to toll from an inhabitant of Brecknock, who came to the market under his jurisdiction, unless that inhabitant had an exemption by prescription, in which case the grant is nugatory; the same observation will apply to the other privilege.

## ANCIENT BOROUGH SEAL.

To the substantial benefits conferred by this charter, Philip and Mary, who, though they were not distinguished either for generosity or benevolence in their general conduct, yet were in high good humour with the town of Brecon (in so much, that one of the courtiers of the time exclaimed with an oath, that they must have been asleep when they granted it),<sup>1</sup> also added an honorary distinction. The ancient seal of the borough bore the arms of de Breos on one side, and Bohun on the reverse (see plate II. fig. 1). Philip and Mary gave them for arms, Luna, a mantle of state, Mars, doubled ermine bushed Sol. garnished with strings, fastened fretwise pendant and tassel'd of the same (see the same plate, fig. 2); which arms they continue to use to the present day, except, that in the time of Cromwell, it was considerably reduced in size (fig. 3). The seal, fig. 7, in the same plate, is that of the last duke of Buckingham, the impression from which is in wax, appendant to one of his charters to the town, now remaining among the records of the corporation.

## CHARTER WITHDRAWN BY JAMES THE SECOND.

Thus favoured by the munificence of the crown, and their burdens in a great measure removed, they continued to act under this grant until the second year of the reign of that unfortunate monarch James the Second, who however deserves our pity, rather than our detestation. When, among other weak and ill judged schemes suggested by his advisers, in order to raise a fund to support his short lived authority, he compelled the corporation of Brecon (as well as several others) to surrender their charter and to pay him a sum of money for granting them a new one, in which the chief magistrate is called a mayor, instead of bailiff, and which so nearly resembles the former, that we are astonished, that in about four years afterwards, when they were left at liberty, they seem to have felt a pleasure in resuming their ancient charter. Hugh Thomas speaks of it with great comfort and exultation, for, after mentioning the fact, he adds, 'and so from being a mayor, they once more became a bailiff town.' In some instances, James's charter is more liberal than the former, for it empowers the magistrates to appoint an additional fair upon Saint George's day, annually, which is still holden: it likewise constitutes the recorder one of the common council men in right of his office, the omission of which, in Philip and Mary's charter, is certainly an oversight; but there is one dangerous clause in James's grant, which perhaps was the cause of its being rejected, as it certainly subjected the borough to the arbitrary power of the crown, for it provided that his majesty

<sup>1</sup> Whoever reads this charter attentively, will agree with *the courtier*, for independently of the loss of £100 per annum to the crown, the powers granted to the corporation in some cases, are unusual and excessive; and indeed, the crown seems, by this charter, to have granted away almost all its revenues and rights, except £20 a year, and the allegiance of the subjects there.











and his successors in the privy council, and under the privy seal, might remove from their office, the recorder, mayor, common clerk, chamberlain and aldermen, at his and their will and pleasure.<sup>1</sup>

## FIGHT FOR POLITICAL SUPREMACY.

In 1698, Hugh Thomas says, there were 160 burgesses, who gave their votes in a contested election between Thomas Morgan of Machan and Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys of the Priory, 'besides about 40 others that voted not.' In the beginning of the following century, the town seems to have been much divided, and party spirit ran very high. The Jeffreyses of the Priory laid claim to the voices of the burgesses, and sometimes succeeded in becoming their representatives in Parliament, but very soon after the marriage of Mr. Morgan of Machan with the heiress of Dderw in Breconshire, the interest of that family predominated, and in the above mentioned election Mr. Morgan was the successful candidate; but there was also a third power, Mr. Gabriel Powel, who then lived at Pennant, within the borough, and who, as steward to the Duke of Beaufort, laboured to support the expiring influence of that house, from whence the burgesses, in 1685, had chosen one of their representatives, though it does not appear that Charles, marquis of Worcester, the person so chosen, accepted of the seat in Parliament for this borough. Mr. Powel finding his efforts ineffectual and his friends left in a minority, determined to attack the partizans of the successful party: in 1723, therefore, he obtained leave to file informations in the nature of a *quo warranto* against Edward Jones of Buckland and Hugh Powel of Castlemadoc, esqrs., to shew by what right they claimed to be capital burgesses of Brecon, neither of them residing within the borough. Both these cases are published, or we certainly should have permitted them to sleep, as the usage in this borough, before and since that time, has been in direct opposition to the decision of the judges and the determination of the house of lords, the dernier resort and supreme court of judicature of this kingdom.

The first, against Mr. Jones of Buckland, is in Vol. 8, Modern Reports, Case 165. The evidence given at the trial at Hereford is not detailed there, but those who have heard of this decision always assert that Mr. Jones, in order to shew he was sufficiently resident and conversant within the borough, for the purposes of justice, produced a witness to prove, that though he lived nearly eight miles from Brecon, he heard the great bell of Saint Mary's toll<sup>2</sup> to collect the constables, while he sat in his parlour at Buckland; but he principally relied upon usage, and the jury, contrary to the opinion of the court, acquitted him, which produced a remarkable division among the judges. Six were of opinion, that this being in the nature of a criminal prosecution, the verdict could not be set aside, and the other six were of a different opinion; but all agreed that it was illegal, and that residence was necessary by the charter, to intitle a burgess to his privileges: however, as nothing further was done upon this, it appears that the non resident burgesses considered it as a temporary victory. The other case, which is in Brown's Cases in Parliament (vol. 3, page 28), was fought with much more obstinacy and ardour; it was commenced at the same period with the former, but it was not tried till Hereford assizes, March 1724, when the jury, under the direction of the court, returned a special verdict, the substance of which was, that the place and office of a freeman, and the place and office of a burgess, was one and the same, and not different. They then, after stating that Mr. Powel did not live within the borough at the time of his election, proceeded to say, that from the 15th Elizabeth to that day, the usage was to choose freemen or burgesses out of men inhabiting, as well without, as within the borough, but that they submitted to the court whether that usage was legal or not.

## MR. POWEL'S APPEAL TO PARLIAMENT.

This special verdict being argued in the court of king's bench in Michaelmas term, 1727, the court gave judgment of ouster against the plaintiff, Mr. Powel. To reverse this judgment he brought a writ of error in Parliament, where it was insisted on his behalf, that this was a corporation by prescription, as well as charter; that the charter confirmed all their ancient customs, and that from the 15th Elizabeth down to that time, without interruption, it had been usual to elect freemen or burgesses out of persons inhabiting, as well without as within the borough; it was therefore conceived that it would be of dangerous consequence to set aside such usage after such a length of time, and more especially, as it might be the cause of disfranchising many other members of the corporation, who had been chosen in the same manner, or whose elections depended on the same usage, and that it might also tend to destroy the whole body, if, after Mr Powel had been twenty years in possession

<sup>1</sup> A similar objection was made to a charter granted by this monarch to Nottingham. See Deering's history of that town: indeed it formed part of his *system* of making the principal officers of every corporation in the kingdom removable at pleasure, and consequently dependent upon the crown.

<sup>2</sup> This very salutary regulation was continued in 1800. At eight o'clock in the evening, of the November fair, the bell tolls to command the attendance of the peace officers of the borough, upon the bailiff and aldermen, who, at that hour, visit the public houses within their district, to prevent or punish drunkenness or disorderly conduct,



of the superior office of a capital burgess, and twice served the office of bailiff, it should be drawn into question whether he was a legal burgess at the time or not. To this, it was answered that since the acceptance of the charter, no one could be a burgess unless his election could be warranted under such charter, that it appeared from the verdict of the jury, that Mr. Powel was not capable of being elected to such office, as he was not an inhabitant of the borough, that no usage can be sufficient to establish a right, but an immemorial usage, which did not appear, as it went no further back than the 15th Elizabeth, but that, even supposing it to be such an usage as would amount to a prescription, still when a charter was accepted, directing an election, inconsistent with such usage, as in the present case, when the election of burgesses is confined to be out of the inhabitants, the prescription, inconsistent with the charter can no longer exist but is determined by the acceptance of the charter, which must afterwards be the only measure by which the election of burgesses is to be governed that corporations were merely creatures of the crown; that, when they subsisted under charters, they must be guided by such rules and directions as are hereby prescribed; that therefore, when any charter has directed, as in this case, that certain members were to be elected out of persons under any particular description, such persons, and *no others*, were capable of being elected; that, though in some corporations, practices inconsistent with the rules of their charters, might have prevailed, yet they were no better than so many usurpations upon the crown. Such wrongful practices could no more create a right, contrary to the words of the charter, than the first instance of the kind, after the acceptance thereof, could be legal, and that since it would be difficult to maintain that position, it would be equally so to fix upon any period of time when such practice would begin to be legal. Of this opinion were the lords; they therefore affirmed the decision of the court of king's bench.

#### NUMBER OF CAPITAL BURGESSES AND CORPORATION REVENUES.

At present the number of capital and other burgesses in this borough are nineteen; fifteen of whom, including the bailiff, recorder and aldermen, are common council men; the present chamberlains are also burgesses, and have consequently votes in the election of a representative in parliament.

The revenues, now possessed by the corporation, arise from the tolls and sealing of leather, and produce about sixty-four pounds per annum, which are paid to the bailiff, but the expenses of his office far exceed this sum, so that he pays for his honours. The twenty pounds reserved to the crown, were granted in the time of Charles the Second to Sir Thomas Osborne, created Earl of Danby in 1694, and afterwards Duke of Leeds, from whom it descended to Francis Godolphin Osborne, the fifth peer of that title, who sold it to the late Sir Charles Morgan. Towards the discharge of this incumbrance they have a manor, called the manor of the borough of Brecon, though it is not co-extensive with that precinct. The chief rents within this district amount to about twenty-three pounds per annum. ¶

#### COURT LEETS AND ANCIENT WARDS.

Exclusive of the town courts, held on Mondays and Thursdays, weekly, they sometimes hold a court of quarter sessions, in which the recorder presides, and tries criminals for offences committed within the borough. Within one month after Michaelmas, yearly, they have a court leet, with a view of frank pledge, of the tenants of the manor; and at this court they appoint constables for the twelve wards within the borough. These wards are: Watton, in which all the houses in the suburbs of that name, and all the lands from the town wall, at the Captain's walk, to the river Brynich, are included; Old Port superior, in which are the precinct of the Priory, and all the lands in Saint John's, within the borough; Old Port inferior, comprehending the whole of the Struet, except the Dolphin public house and Lôn y baw, and extending to the Forge and Hay turnpike gate; High street superior, in which are the Castle lane and the street leading from the Struet gate to the top of Ship street, including also a street running nearly parallel to the middle of the town, and all that cluster of houses, save one, in which the Bank is situate; High street inferior ward, is that street in which stands the hall; Saint Mary's contains two parallel streets adjoining the church or chapel of that name; Cantercely, the whole of Lion lane, and up one side of Mount street to Pencerrig cochon turnpike; Heol rydd is the street of that name to the turnpike gate; Morganwg comprises that row of houses frequently called Glamorganshire street, part of Lôn y poffty and Wheat street; Ship street has the two rows of houses so called, as well as Horn lane and the greatest part of Lôn y poffty; Llanfaes contains the suburb of that name and the whole of the lands in the parish of Saint David's within the borough; and Tre-castle ward is within the parish of Llywel, at the distance of ten miles from Brecon.

#### THE PARISH CHURCHES IN 1800.

Within the borough are two parish churches, Saint John the Evangelist's and Saint David's, and within the circuit of the town wall is the third, called Saint Mary's, the description of which is not decisively ascertained. Prior to 1700 it was called, in all ecclesiastical proceedings, the *church* of the blessed Virgin Mary; in the beginning of the last century it was called the chapel of the blessed



Virgin Mary, and since, it should seem, that it is doubtful how it ought to be described, for the style of the ecclesiastical court, held there, is 'at the consistory court for the archdeaconry of Brecon, held at the church or chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary in Brecon.' The commissioners, in the reign of Queen Anne, returned it to be a curacy and chapel of ease to Saint John's, and it is stated by Ecton to be a curacy, and discharged from tenths in the king's book.

## ST. JOHN'S, OR PRIORY.

Saint John the Evangelist's, formerly, from its cross aisles or chapels, called *ecclesia sanctæ crucis*, and sometimes the church of the holy rood, 'standeth (as Leland says) north without the waulle up the Rise of Honddye.' It is situate upon an eminence, and formerly, as well as the precinct of the Priory, was surrounded by a lofty and strong wall, still remaining on the western side. Whether this church was entirely erected by Bernard Newmarch, or only repaired by him, cannot be clearly ascertained, but if there was a church here before his time, as we have some reasons to believe there was, from the Saxon font and some slight remains in the building of the architecture of that age, he so far improved and enlarged it, and as he says, caused it to be dedicated to the honour of Saint John the Evangelist, that he may, very fairly and properly be said to be intitled to the appellation of its founder. Since his days, however, it has undergone so many changes and so many amendments, in consequence of the injuries of time and unavoidable dilapidations during the lapse of seven centuries, that little of its original form or materials remain; and at present it has a venerable, though rather a motley appearance in the eye of the man of science and the antiquary. The principal style of architecture, however, still predominant throughout the whole of the building, is the *Gothic*, as it has been strangely called.

## ITS CHAPELS.

At first, we have no doubt, the fabric was perfectly cruciform; the chapel of the men of Battle and the Norman, or chapel of *the red haired*, forming the cross aisles or transept. Soon after the establishment of the guilds in Brecon, and when trade began to flourish, the chapels for the shoemakers and tailors on one side, and the weavers and tuckers on the other, were taken out of the breadth of the nave, and appropriated for the use of these bodies exclusively: this probably happened shortly after the time when Brecknock became a borough town, in the reign of Edward the First or Second. As early as this, if not earlier, one of the family of Havard of Pontwilym obtained leave to erect a chapel adjoining the chancel, which for two or three centuries back, has been called the Vicar's chapel; and if conjecture may be allowed, from appearances in the building and the foundations of the walls, seen by Hugh Thomas, another, by way of addition or enlargement of the Norman chapel, communicated with the chancel on the west, where a door, remaining still (though stopped up) opened into the Hughes's burying place. Of the Priory or monastery, there are now no remains, save the outward parapet wall, which is very perfect from the church, near the entrance into the church yard from the north west to the foot of the bridge over the Honddu on the south. In this wall, says Hugh Thomas, there were three gates; two of the ancient entrances only are to be seen at present, but the third certainly must have been where the modern door is placed, leading to the Priory house. The church yard does not seem to be within the precinct; this cemetery was probably intended for *the vulgar*, the bodies of the great and the religious being interred in the church.

From a door, at the southern end of the weavers and tuckers' chapel, now remaining, the cloisters led in a direction from north east to south west, behind which were the habitations of the Prior and Monks; these were known of late years by the name of y Doctor du, from a tradition, that the ghost of a man, clothed in black, haunted them. These buildings were taken down about thirty years ago (about 1751),<sup>1</sup> and probably another cloister ran parallel with them, entering into the church near the font, and proceeding from thence, in the same direction, to the wall at the top of what is now called Parnassus Hill, behind which again were dwelling houses and a court, now converted into a farm yard, and then granaries and other out-houses adjoining the wall, the remains of which are seen, and are now used as barns, stables, and for other purposes of agriculture or commerce.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH IN 1800.

But to return to the church of Saint John the Evangelist, and to describe it in its present state. We begin at the western pine end, near which is a beautiful circular stone font of the Saxon age, which the decorators of the building have so thickly covered with white lime, that it is difficult to

<sup>1</sup> It appears by a MS. in the Duke of Beaufort's library, intitled *Notitia Cambro Britannica*, written by one Thomas Dinely, who accompanied the Marquiss of Worcester, president of Wales, in his tour through the principality, in 1684, that in this cloister was seen a figure in wood of a dragon, or some other imaginary monster, in the act of devouring a woman as large as life, though without a head. This is, perhaps, an awkward illusion to the dragon seeking to devour the woman as mentioned in the 12th chapter of Revelations. For a representation of this figure, as seen in 1684, see plate 2, fig. 4.



trace the ornaments sculptured round it; as far, however, as they can be made out, they consist of a wreath entwined about the outward edge, below which are four circles, including smaller ones crossing each other in various directions, and the column, supported by a base of three grieces, or steps, shows a regular chain of intersecting arches.

#### THE NAVE.

The nave of the church, which is very lofty, has been lately (1800) cieled, and exhibits a number of tawdry compartments,<sup>1</sup> alternately red and white, is in length, from the western pine end to the entrance into the chancel, one hundred and thirty-six feet, six inches, and in breadth, twenty-eight feet and six inches: on each side are the tradesmen's aisles before mentioned, which are separated *at present*, from the nave, by thin wooden partitions, on which are, partly carved and partly painted, goat's heads erased, the shears, shuttles, and other instruments used in, or emblematical of, the different occupations or guilds. At the western end of the fabric, it is intersected by two cross aisles, called the chapel of the men of Battle, and the chapel of the red haired race. The first, which is one of the northern entrances into the church, is the Battle chapel; it is in length thirty feet six inches, by twenty-nine feet, and is divided from the vicar's, formerly the Havard's chapel, of somewhat larger dimensions, or extent in point of length, than the former. The Cappel Cochiaid, Norman or red haired men's chapel, is on the southern side of the nave: it is in length, thirty eight feet three, by twenty-nine feet; on the eastern side is a small recess, now used as a burying place, by the family of Hughes of this town and Tregunter; and still further eastward is a ruinous building, formerly used as a vestry room, which fell into decay about one hundred years ago (1700), but we are inclined to think, both these last mentioned buildings are not of very early erection, and that a much larger chapel,<sup>2</sup> covered their site, being co-extensive with the vicar's chapel on the other side of the chancel, from which there were doors on each side. One is now apparent where Mr Hughes's hatchment is placed, and the arches, over two others, may be seen in the vicar's chapel, opposite. The steeple is placed immediately over the intersection of this cross, and covers an area of ten square yards within the walls. It is said to be considerably higher than Saint Mary's, though, from its enormous bulk, it does not appear to be as lofty as the latter: in it are six bells, and formerly it could be entered by galleries from all parts of the church, though now it can only be ascended by stone stairs from Cappel y Cochiaid.

#### THE CHANCEL.

The chancel (sixty-two feet three in length, by twenty-nine and a half in breadth) is now divided from the body of the church by a gallery, formerly the rood loft; this likewise is cieled and divided into compartments, *adorned* with paint, yet time and its apparent adversary, though frequently too powerful coadjutor, innovation have here failed in their attempts to efface entirely the ancient magnificence of the church of Saint John the Evangelist in Brecon. On each side are seen three rows of light, beautifully clustered columns, broken off just above the corbels, though they show parts of the ribs springing to support the roof; these, no doubt, were continued through the whole nave, for, though the ceiling, or rather flat covering of boards, studded with stars, which preceded the present, was of early date, we do not conceive it to have been cœval with the fabric.

Those only who have seen structures of the same description in Westminster Abbey, or the beautiful representation of it in a valuable publication entitled *Essays on Gothic Architecture*, by Wharton and others, know how to appreciate the grandeur of this style of architecture; the symmetry and proportion of what is called the gothic arch, has something peculiarly attracting in its sweep and finely pointed termination, whether it naturally and forcibly elevates the human mind and tends to impress the soul with devotion, or whether we acquire the admiration of it from habit, we do not pretend to determine, but to us it appears powerfully to promote and assist religious awe and holy rapture, when,

Through the long drawn aisle and fretted vault,  
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.

“We have just now suggested that it is probable the nave of the church has undergone some alterations, and that the side aisles may have been added subsequent to the erection of the most ancient part of the fabric; a survey of the exterior of the church will confirm this conjecture. The outward walls, beneath the tile, are what is frequently called embattled, and within runs a gutter to carry off the water: the windows, of which there are four on each side, are of the gothic, of the 15th

<sup>1</sup> Since writing the above, the cieiling has been uniformly white washed, which removes objection to the tawdry appearance here described; but alas! the same *decorating and beautifying* hour, swept away the venerable skreens, with their emblems from the tradesmen's aisles, and in a few years they will be forgotten.

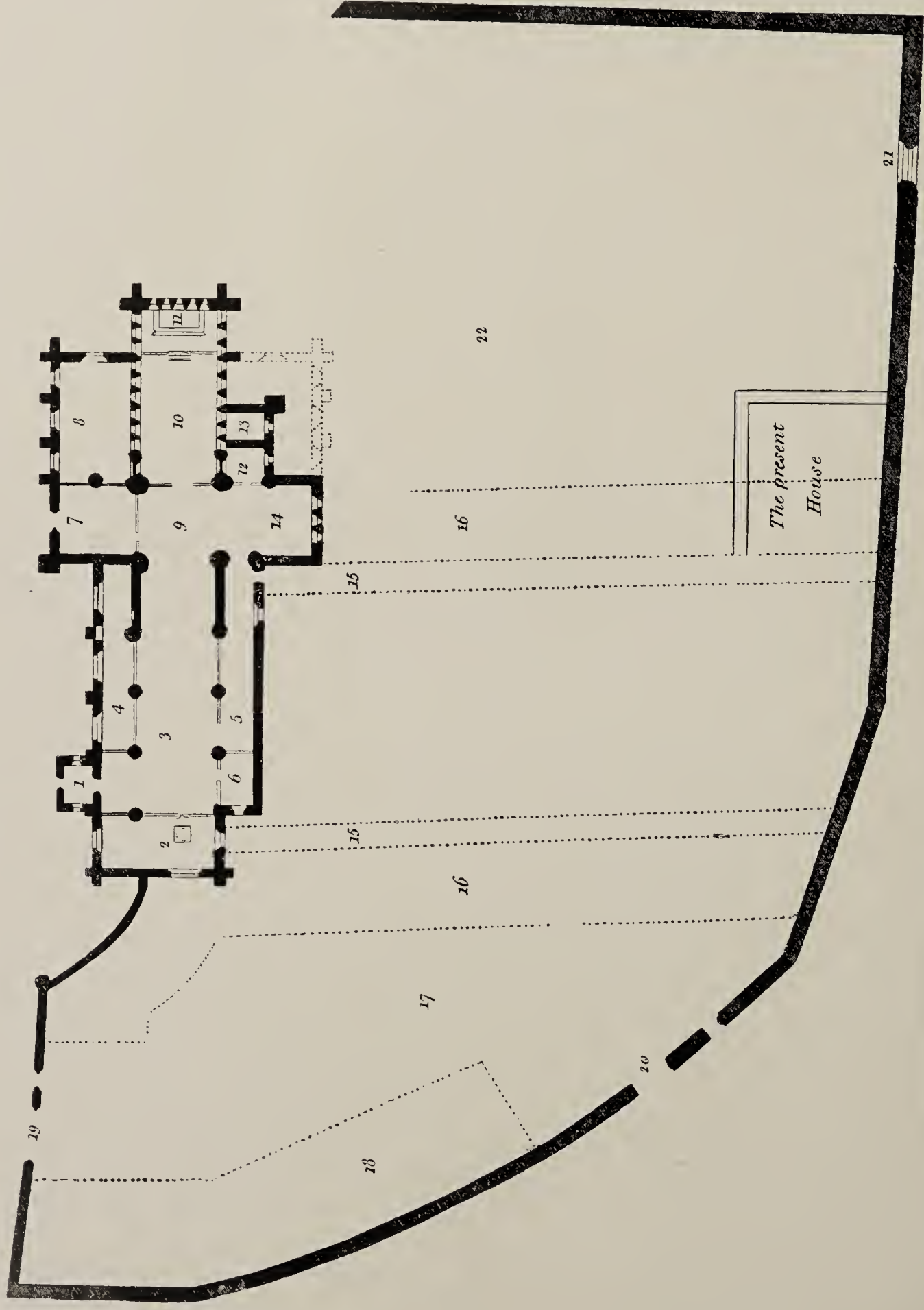
<sup>2</sup> This we conceive to be the chapel of Saint Lawrence, mentioned in the composition between the last Prior and the vicar of Brecon, which will be noticed hereafter.







**GROUND PLAN of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in BRECON, the Wall surrounding the precinct of the PRIORY,**  
together with the supposed site of the Cloisters and Dwellings of the **PRIOR & MONKS** marked by dotted lines



**PLATE III.—REFERENCES AND EXPLANATION.**

(Applicable to the Church in 1809.)

- (1) Western Porch or Entrance; (2) Font; (3) Nave; (4) Northern Aisle, called the Shoemakers' and Tailors' Chapels; (5 and 6) Southern Aisle, now divided, formerly called the Weavers' and Tailors' Chapel; (7) Chapel of the Men of Battle; (8) Havard's Chapel; (9) Area under the Chapel; (10) Chancel; (11) High Altar or Communion Table; (12) Hughes's Chapel; (13) Chapel now in ruins supposed to have been co-extensive with the dotted lines, and to be St. Lawrence's; (14) Chapel y Cochiaid or Norman Chapel; (15) Cloisters; (16) Residences of the Monks; (17) Fold or Farm Yard; (18) Granaries, now converted into Barns, Beasthouses, etc.; (19) Northern Gate; (20) Western Gate; (21) The present door or entrance towards the Priory House.



century, and divided at their tops by ramifications or intersections, the western only excepted, which has a wheel or circle near the top, within which are quatrefoils conjoined at the centre. The aisles had three windows of the same age as those now in the side walls of the church; these are since stopped up, and a late one in each substituted. The arch of the north eastern door is of the architecture of the same days as the windows in the body of the church; but the moment we come to the Battle chapel and the Cappel y Cochiaid, a different style prevails. Both these edifices present us north and south with their pine ends, in each of which are three long lancet windows; those in the former are now filled up with boards, through which are made small holes, to admit the light, and the archway over the door below, is evidently of much earlier construction than the western. Proceeding eastward, on both sides of the chancel, where it is not concealed by the vicar's chapel, the same leaden gutter continues under the tile, but the side walls want the parapets and embrasures, while below are seen three plain lancet windows, and in the eastern pine end are five long lights of the same description, divided by five slender pilasters on the inside, and externally by narrow compartments; so that it should seem, that the chancel and the cross aisles, on the junction of which is placed the steeple, a building of the same age, are of higher antiquity than the side aisles; for that there have been additions and alterations made in all parts of the church, at different periods, is clear, even on a superficial survey of the fabric.

## ITS ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND AND MONUMENTS.

Thus far as to the structure. The silent, yet communicative, and frequently interesting register of mortality, which the tombstone displays, next demands attention, and will, we hope, apologize for an attempt to preserve the perishing fragments, recording the virtues, the talents, the names, the years, and the departure of those who have preceded us in the race of life. The study is of greater moment than many people are aware of, to the Christian, the moralist, and the philosopher. And here it may be proper to observe, that there is not a single spot of ground, throughout the whole of this church, which has not at one time or other been a place of interment; this may be lamented, but unless a greater portion of ground be allotted, as a burying place for this now populous parish, it cannot be avoided, for it can hardly escape notice, that the surface of the Priory church yard, is so considerably raised, in consequence of the frequent and continued deposit of dead bodies there, that we descend considerably into the church, though from the appearance of the lower tier of windows in the northern side aisle, it is clear, that the soil within the church is now much higher than it was at a very remote period.

Before proceeding to notice the monuments and inscriptions now to be seen here, we beg leave to request the assistance of those who have long preceded us in our researches, and who have described some memorials of the dead no longer to be met with in this church. From Leland and Camden little information is to be expected, the former seldom notices a monument, and the latter sought principally for Roman and British remains and inscriptions. Churchyarde, who published his *Worthiness of Wales* in the year 1587, is the first author to whom we are indebted for some fragile mementos of mortality, most of which have since either been removed, defaced, or are decayed: the first he notices is the clumsy wooden monument of the Gams, which we shall reserve until we enter the chancel; he then goes on:—

Within that church there lies *beneath the quere*  
These persons two whose names now shall ye heare  
In tomb of stone full fayre and finely wrought  
One *Waters* lyes with his wife fast by his side  
Of some great stocke those couple may be thought  
As by their armes on tome may well be tried  
Full at his feete a goodly greyhound lyes  
And at his head there is before your eyes  
Three Libbarts<sup>1</sup> heads three cups two eagles splayd<sup>2</sup>  
A fayre red crosse and further to be sayd,  
A Lyon blacke a serpent firely made  
With tayle wound up these armes thus endeth so.  
Crossleg'd by him as was the auncient trade  
Debreos lyes in picture as I troe

Of most hard wood: which wood as divers say  
No worne can eat or time can wear away  
A couching hound, as harrolds<sup>3</sup> thought full meeto  
In wood likewise lyes underneath his feete.

Just by the same Meredith Thomas lyes  
Who had great wit and worship both  
And world him thought both happie blest and wise  
A man that lov'd good justice faith and troth  
Right oer his tombe to his great fame  
Good store in deed of Latin verses are  
And every verse set foorth in such good frame  
That truly doth his life and death declare  
This man was likt for many graces good  
That he possest besides his birth and blood.

*Worthines of Wales, p. 72, Lond. edit. of 1776.*

“The tomb here described, as that of Waters, is that now (in 1800) surrounded with rails on the left hand, entering Cappel y Cochiaid; of this, nothing remains, save the altar part, on which formerly lay two recumbent figures in stone, one of them, though in a mutilated state, lay there within memory, and there are some persons still living who recollect another figure placed upon this tomb. The persons here meant to be commemorated, were certainly a Walter and his wife, a family of considerable note in this town during the reigns of Henry the Seventh and his successor, though from what ‘fayre stock’

<sup>1</sup> Leopards.

<sup>2</sup> displayed.

<sup>3</sup> Heralds.



originally descended, we know not, or whether they were of Welsh extraction, but they are not found among the descendants of Brychan or Cradoc, or even among the advenæ or strangers long settled in Wales. None of the quarterings in the arms, as here set down, are British, but they are so defectively blazoned, that it is impossible to say with certainty to whom they belong.

PRIOR WALTER'S FAMILY.

From a list of the Priors of the Priory of Brecon, in Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, it appears that William Walter succeeded John Burgrove as prior of Brecon in 1434, and by a MS. note in the handwriting of Brown Willis, in an interleaved survey of Saint David's in the Bodleian library, we are informed that a William Walter was archdeacon of Brecon in 1504 and 1510, that his arms, some time before Brown Willis published, were to be seen over his house at Saint David's, but so much defaced that it could not be known whether they were three boars' or three oxen's heads, and in chief two griffins; if he was of this family, and Churchyarde be correct, they were three leopards, and in that case the lion and griffin were in chief. In 1515 Thomas Walter was bailiff at Brecknock; at the time of the attainder of the last Stafford duke of Buckingham, Matthew Walter filled that office, and was appointed by the lord of Brecon. In the latter end of the sixteenth century, we find one of this name, and we are inclined to think of this family, who commenced his practice at the court of the president of the council of the marches, and went to settle at Ludlow; Edmund Walter<sup>1</sup> who died there in 1592, married Mary, one of the daughters of Thomas Herbert of Eyton, and had issue James, John, Edward, Mary, and Dorothy: he bore sable, a fess indented between *three eagles displayed* argent, beaked and clawed gules, crest *a leopard's head* erased ermine. This we conceive to be the elder branch of the family; the second house still continue in Brecon, and were in some repute in the time of Hugh Thomas, who mentions a Mr John Walter, ironmonger, who was then in possession of a barn called the Spittle, in the Watton, and who was bailiff of Brecon in 1682 and 1687.

THE DE BREOS AND MEREDITH THOMAS MONUMENTS.

Reginald de Breos has been noticed where it was observed that no trace of his tomb remained; from the mention of its situation under the choir we presume it must have been placed under the present gallery, and on the right hand, entering into the chancel; the cross legs of the lord of Brecon offended the puritanic mind and eyes of the soldiers of Cromwell, and provoked them to make a bonfire of 'that most hard wood,' which had otherwise defied the power of time, and which, the unwearied worm would have in vain assailed.

Meredith Thomas has followed De Breos in the road to oblivion, though we learn from our homely historic poet that his tomb was near the descendant of Bernard Newmarch, which name reminds us of an erroneous tradition in this place, that Reginald's monument was that of our Norman conqueror, who was certainly buried at Gloucester.

Meredith Thomas was of the profession of the law and a notary public, perhaps deputy registrar of the archdeaconry of Brecon; he was eight times bailiff of Brecon, and died in 1587, and though we have lost that good store of verses, formerly recording his merits, fortunately he still lives in his will, a copy of which is preserved in the Registry office at Brecon. This document recites his wish (in an age when such a wish was thought almost impious) that his body should be opened in order that the cause of his disorder might be known, and posterity benefited by the discovery, and proves that he had more benevolence and profundity of thinking than many wise and sensible men even of the present day possess. A short extract from it may not be unacceptable, as it portrays his character; it was proved in 1585, and he describes himself therein by the name of Meredith Thomas Ap David Goch: 'I desire to be buried in the parish church of Saint John the Evangelist, in the chapple there, where my father, my brothers and sisters were buried hard by the wall, and I will that mine executors do erect a stone by the wall syde or the syde of the same to be in the wall close as high as a man's brest that any of the parishioners may lean upon, and I will that mine executors shall cause a surgeon or physician to open my body and extract my bowells that the cause of my sickness may be known. I appoint my wife Elinor and my son Daniel to be mine executors, I give to the cathedral church of Saint David's four pence, for my forgotten tythes twelve pence, and for the reparation of the parish church and chapple of Brecon three shillings and four pence, I give my house in Morganwg street where

<sup>1</sup> He was a benefactor to Jesus College Oxford (founded by a native of Brecon, as will be seen hereafter) to which seminary he gave 1000*l.* which were laid out in the purchase of lands in Carmarthenshire. Morant, in his *History of Essex*. vol. 2, p. 73, informs us, that Thomasia, daughter and heiress of Thomas Heveningham of Roxwell, in that county, married Walter Thomas, gent of *Goge Howell*, in Wales, by whom she had issue William Walter, married to Isabella, daughter of Thomas Denton of Catesfield in Yorkshire, by whom she had issue Thomas Walter, and that William Walter was in possession of Roxwell in the reign of Elizabeth. By *Goge Howell*, is undoubtedly meant Crickhowell; perhaps the Walters of Brecon and Ludlow were of this family, as the author referred to, also tells us, that Anne, the sister of the last named Thomas Walter, married———of Denton, in Salop.



my *kellen* (kiln) ys to my son Daniel reserving the use of it to my wife for her life, but if he shall have no issue then to my daughter Catherine Meredith and her heirs for ever, I give to my son Daniel after my wife's decease my barns orchards and gardens in the Wacktowne (the Watton) purchased from my brother Thomas<sup>1</sup> and a mead called Lack issa paying the rent in equal shares with my wife while she lives, I give after her decease the house bought of John Hoel and his wife in Cantercely strete and all barns stables backsydes *killen's bruers*, (kilns, breweries, or brewhouses), etc., to my son Daniel and his heirs for ever also I will that mine executors shall joyne together in all actions concerning my will and that they shall dwell together and spend in all honest means all such *talments*<sup>2</sup> that I leave or bequeath to them in mayntaynyng my house and family and *relyveing my friends that come unto them without grudge or variance* I give my son Daniel the tythes of the rectory of Llanfaes after the decease or marriage of my said wife and if my executors cannot agree together I will that my effects platts (plate) jewels be divided among them by Jno. Thomas ap Thomas and Robert ap Phillip my cousins.' This will is attested by Piers Williams, Water Davids, vicar of Brecon, Thomas Lewis *Clicus* and others.

JOHN TOWERS, BAILIFF OF BRECON.

Meredith Thomas was succeeded as bailiff by John Towers, who married Catherine, daughter of his brother Thomas ap Thomas. His tombstone may be still seen, it is close upon the left hand entering Cappel y Cochiaid from the church in the very spot where we should have been inclined to have placed Meredith Thomas's, if we were not satisfied that no person would have presumed, in 1587, to efface the memorial of a man of Meredith Thomas's respectability, by substituting another, although Towers was married to his niece.

The family of Towers, Hugh Thomas says,<sup>3</sup> came here from Cumberland, or somewhere in the north of England; he has preserved the inscription on his tombstone, which is now so mutilated and defaced as not to be legible. The letters are in relief, and in what Mr Astle calls 'set chancery,' but more commonly called the German text character; the words follow:

Here lyeth the body of John Towers, haberdasher, late bailiff of this towne of Brecknock, who departed this life the 10th day of April, 1587, and had to wife Alce, one of the daughters of Thomas ap Thomas, one of the council of the same town.

Oh Towers farewell thy saedg (sage) advice,  
Fare well thy help and ayde;  
Farewell good Towers, farewell old  
Frinde that friendly would have stayd.

By his will, proved in the register office in Brecon, it appears he had no children; he was possessed of a considerable property in and near the town of Brecon, particularly 'a new house buylded by himself adjoynyng our ladie's chapple,' also a barne in the Watton, being of late Sir Thomas Griffiths's<sup>4</sup> barne, he held also by lease under William Watkins of Llangorse, esq., the bishophe's meadow, and a close in Llanddew, called *Stanbey*, under Henry Vaughan of Crickhowel, esq." These, together with many other possessions and effects, among which is a *curkall* horse (a curriele horse) he bequeaths to his nephews and nieces, sons and daughters of his brothers, Matthew, Richard, and William. The arms on his tombstone are, paly wavy of 6..... a lion rampant, impaling three towers; and for his crest, ensigned with a helmet befitting his degree, a wreath, and thereon a tower, on which a pelican vulning herself. What are here called towers in the arms, with some little faith, may be supposed to be such, or at least they may represent or *disfigure the pine ends* of towers, with a door in the base of each; that on the crest is not very unlike a night-cap, but what can be expected from that *artist* who has reversed the arms in the shield, and placed those of baron in the sinister, and femme in the dexter side.

Hugh Thomas proceeds to say that he knows not how many children he left, but that his son Matthew was bailiff of Brecon in 1610, and buried near his father, with this inscription:

Here lyeth the body of Matthew Towers, gentleman, once bailiff of this town of Brecknock, who married Catherine, daughter to Roger Crump of Eardisley, who had issue seven children, now living, Matthew, Richard, Timothie, Robert, John, Elizaboth, and Jane; he died 1st June, 1614.

Hugh Thomas is evidently mistaken in calling this Matthew a son of John Towers, he was his nephew; the inscription is no longer visible, nor have we been able to meet one in the body of the church, as Thomas says, commemorating the interment of William Towers, who married Sibil, daughter to John Dillwyn, barber, by whom he had ten children; living two, Catherine and Ales, and who died 28th October, 1613. Hugh Thomas supposes that Matthew, the eldest son of Matthew, died without issue as did also Richard in 1634; Timothy died in 1624; Robert without issue, in 1634; John, the

<sup>1</sup> Bailiff of Brecon in 1573.

<sup>2</sup> A corrupt Welsh word for payment, here, we believe it means dues of debts owing to the testator.

<sup>3</sup> They were of Crolinghall in Cumberland.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Thomas Griffiths was vicar of Brecon, and died in 1572. Vide, List of incumbents



youngest son of Matthew, by Catherine Crump, in 1635, leaving his son Matthew an infant and three daughters; the gravestone of his wife remains near that of John Towers, though the inscription is in part defaced, what is legible is as follows:

Here lyeth the body of Catherine, the daughter of William Awbrey, who married Matthew Towers, they had issue three children, Margaret, Catherine and Elizabeth, she died 27th July, 1683.

So that the infant died while of tender years and soon after the father, whereupon the name became extinct in Brecon. The arms on the stone over the grave of Catherine Awbrey, afterwards Towers, are, 1, a lion rampant..... 2 Towers, 3 Awbrey, 4 a lion rampant, 5 Towers, 6 7 and 8 not legible, motto, Prayes God. Near her also is another coat of arms, the inscription round the stone is not legible, further than that, from it we learn, that the person there interred, married Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew Towers, by whom he had issue Elizabeth ———, and that he died in March, 1706. The initials I. B. shew this to be John Berrow, who married this Elizabeth in 1684.<sup>1</sup> The Brecknock herald of this day (not Hugh Thomas) has here again erroneously given the arms; they are, party per pale baron et femme, a chevron between three fleurs de lis in the dexter chief 2 and 1, in the sinister chief 3, fusils 2 and 1, and in base two swords crossing each other in bend, their points upwards, impaling quarterly, 1st and 4th a lion rampant, 2d and 3d Towers.

These Towers being now levelled with the dust and the name forgotten, we proceed to follow the footsteps of a later writer, who has preserved some inscriptions no longer legible, and some figures which cannot now be traced without difficulty; we allude to the writer of the *Notitia Cambro-Britannica*, from whom we learn, that the monument, supposed to be that of Bernard Newmarch, was destroyed, as already suggested, by the soldiers of the Commonwealth, and that the arms, then remaining near it, were 1 sable, a cross in saltier gules, a chief of the 2d, 2 Pichard, 3 sable, a lion rampant *Or*, 4th as the 1st, which he says was the bearing of Llewelyn, prince of Wales. If so, there can remain no doubt but that this was the monument of Reginald de Breos, who, marrying Gwladis ddu, daughter of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, prince of North Wales, assumed, as was frequently done, the arms of his wife, as the most honourable bearing; but, according to our British heralds, Llewelin ap Iorwerth bore quarterly gules and *Or*, four lions passant guardant counterchanged, and Gwilym tells us, that the saltire and chief as above, are the arms of Bruce of Kinloss in Scotland.

#### RICHARD PRICE OF THE PRIORY.

But return to the *Notitia*. One of the first monuments noticed by this writer, is that of Richard Price of the Priory, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Wightman, esq. (plate 2, fig. 5). This was within the communion rails on the left entering into it, and the outlines may be still traced, though not without considerable difficulty; they were, as he observes, inlaid with brass, which was an immediate object of aversion or plunder, or both, with the fanatics, who never failed to deface, and generally to carry away, this ornamental decoration of the tomb. There is no date to ascertain the death of this Richard Price, but we find him living in 1577, and in 1573 he published a defence of Tyssilio, written by his father, in answer to Polydore Virgil, but as this family was of considerable celebrity in Brecon, we shall postpone any further relation with respect to him for the present.

#### THE WILLIAMS OF GWERNYFED MONUMENT.

Another monument, noticed by this writer, is that of Sir David Williams, the paternal ancestor of the baronets Williamses of *Gwernyfed*, which has lately been ornamented, painted, and a new scarlet robe purchased for him out of a fund appropriated for the purpose. The inscription, as directed by him in his will, was:

HIC JACET SIR DAVID WILLIAMS MILES UNUS JUSTICIARIORUM AD PLACITA CORAM IPSO REGE TENENDA ASSIGNATORUM, NATUS EX PROGENIE ADAM<sup>2</sup> HOWEL YCHAN ET OWEN GETHING MATRIMONIO CONJUNCTUS MARGARETÆ UNÆ FILIARUM JOHANNIS GAMES, ARMIGERI ORIGINEM TRAHENS A STIRPE DE GAMES ET VAUGHAN PER QUAM HABUIT NOVEN FILIOS ET DUAS FILIAS QUORUM NUNC EXISTUNT SUPERSTITES QUATUOR FILII ET DUE FILIE.

Nuper eram judex nunc judicis ante tribunal,  
Subsistens paveo; judicor ipse modo.

Thus not unhappily translated by an anonymous versifier:

Bu'm farnwr, eirwr ar wyr fy hun,  
Bu'm hynod benadur;  
Nawr mewn poen dyfn (mân fy nhir)  
O flân barnwr fe'm bernir.

This monument, which reflects a *transient* disgrace upon the dull unicoloured remnants of

<sup>1</sup> MS. Register Office, Brecon.

<sup>2</sup> Not the common parent of mankind, but Adam ap Rhys of Porth yr ogaf, in Ystradfellte.



antiquity around it, presents us with the effigy of Sir David Williams in his judicial habiliments, and on his right is the figure of his first wife, the daughter of John Games of Aberbrân, by a daughter of Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml; over their heads is a canopy or covering, supported by four columns or pillars of an unknown order of architecture, with bases and pedestals which defy technical description. Within on the south wall are his arms blazoned, impaling his wife's, and at the top and in front of the monument they are given again with the following quarterings (having a crescent, which by the bye should have been a mullet, by way of a difference), 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Einion Sais, 4 Ynyr, king of Gwent, 5 Gwys, lord of Gwiston and in base, Justin ap Gwrgan, 6 Rhys Grug, 7 Brychan, and at top and in front of the monument are *again* the same arms. 'Oh confound these fellows!' (says Puff in the *Critic*) 'whenever they get a good thing, they never know when to make enough of it.'

## THE GAMESSES OF ABERBRAN.

Opposite to this, was another to the memory of the Gameses of Aberbran, which consisted entirely of wood, with some nearly obliterated verses, which, says Dinely, 'are as wooden as the monument.' Churchyarde thus describes it:

Built in this church a tombe or two I find  
That worthie is in briefe to bring to minde.  
Three couple lies one ore the other's head  
Along in tombe and all one race and lyne  
And to be playne one couple lyeth dead  
The third likewise as destine shall assyne  
Shall lye on top right ore the other twaine  
Their pictures now all readie there remaine  
In signe when God appoynts the terme and date  
All flesh and blood must yeeld to mortal fate  
These are indeede the auncient race of Gams  
A house and blood that long rich armes doth give  
And now in Wales are many of their names  
That keepe great trayne and doth full bravely live  
The eldest son and chiefest of that race  
Doth bear in arms a ramping lion crownd

And three speare heads and three red cocks in place  
A dragon's head all greene therein is found  
And in his mouth a red and bloody hand  
All this and more upon the tombe doth stand.  
Three fayre boyes heads and every one of those  
A serpent hath close lapt about his necke  
A great white bucke and as you may suppose  
Right ore the same which doth it trimly decke  
A crowne there is that makes a goodly shoe  
A lion blacke and three bulles heads I troe  
Three flower de luce all fresh and white they were  
Two swords two crownes with fayre long crosse is there,  
Three bats whose wings were spreaded all at large  
And three white barres were in these armes likewise  
Let harrolds now to whom belongs that charge  
Describe these things for me this may suffice.

And so perhaps saith the reader; but we must trespass upon his patience once more, by the introduction of some other '*wooden verses*,' formerly written or painted round the valances of this tier on tier of oaken beds, which they perfectly resembled. We are induced to do this for two reasons, first, lest posterity should suppose they lost some valuable information when these lines disappeared, and secondly and principally because they lead to something more than conjecture, as to the persons there interred, or at least whose effigies were intended to be placed thereon; they therefore follow:

This Thomas he of godlie seale  
Upon this monie spent  
To shew their race from whence they came  
By thys thyr monument  
Oh Thomas Games, God graunte thee grace  
To judge of good and evil  
Thy daughters wise to serve God daylye  
To fight against the devil  
I wish thyself as rich to be  
As ever Cressus was  
In power to pass cctavian  
To bring all things to passe<sup>1</sup>

Mayens lyeff is vayn you see  
As scripture playne doth saye  
Like pilgrims poor we roone our race  
And then return to clay  
Is Samson yet alive  
For all his mighty strength  
Both Solomon and Absalom  
Hath yelde to death at length  
And Abraham he is dead  
As scrypture tels hit trew  
Ould Gallen he hath left his books  
And physick byddes adew.

From these miserable lines we learn that this monument was erected by Thomas Games of Aberbrân, in memory of his father and mother, John Games of Aberbrân and Anne his wife, daughter of Sir William Vaughan: the second couple were William Games and his second wife, a daughter of ——— Bodenham of Rotherwas, elder brother of Thomas, who died in the life-time of his father; the third place, when 'destine should assigne,' was reserved for Thomas Games and his wife, and these verses were added after their deaths by some churchyard poet who possessed more affection for the family than sublimity of thought or harmony of metre. Only one female figure remained when this vile incumbrance was removed; the rest, the writer of the *Notitia* tells us, were burnt by the Commonwealth soldiers. Much as we deplore the outrages they committed, we have often lamented, while it continued, that they did not destroy the whole of it. Lord Camden has, however, with great propriety, lately caused it to be taken down, and the chancel decently and uniformly painted, so that when the judge's monument is stripped of its frippery and glare, and

<sup>1</sup> This stanza is omitted in the *Notitia*.



converted to plain stone colour, except the inscription and the arms, this part of the fabric will once more wear its ancient and venerable appearance.

#### THE WALTER AWBREY MONUMENT.

The last tomb noticed by Dinely, is that of a Walter Awbrey and Christina his wife, in the Havard's or vicar's chapel: it is said to have been removed from the college. If so, it was probably upon the erection of the present collegiate church, in the time of Henry 8th, and this tomb must have been placed, and remained for several ages, in the church or oratory of the friars mendicants there; for it bore the date of 1312, though neither the inscription or the date are now to be seen. It forms part of the floor of the chapel, and the figures are in *alto relievo*, so thickly covered with mortar, dirt and dust, that they can hardly be traced with accuracy. It will be seen by plate 2, fig. 6, that little angels held censers over the heads of this Awbrey and his spouse; these aerial beings have vanished, the features of the countenances of the descendant of the Normans and his lady have been nearly defaced, and the plaits of their garments are barely discernible. The inscription round the stone was: 'WALTER LE FIZ WATER AWBREY GIT ICI JESUS DE SA ALME EIT MERCI AMEN. PATER NOSTER.' It then proceeds whimsically to record the name of the wife backwards, writing from the right hand to the left, beginning at the bottom, and reversing the letters: the words were: 'CHRISTINA SA FEMME GIST ICI JESUS DE SA ALME EN MERCI AVE MARIA PATER NOSTER.' A MS. in the British Museum, Harl. coll. No. 3825, Plut.  $\frac{15}{V}$  A., preserves a proud inscription upon a grocer, of no small consequence in his time, if it be believed, which is no longer to be seen: 'Hic jacet Ludovicus Johns mercer hujus olim dum vixit urbis Breconiae non vulgaris civis qui obiit 24 die mensis Septembris Anno Domini 1581, hujus ossa sub hoc lapide habemus inclusa hujus aia perpetua (sic uti sepebamus) cum Christo servitur beatitudine.'

#### THE BERRINGTON EPITAPH.

Having now parted with his predecessors, Theophilus Jones thus makes his own survey. Beginning in the chancel, within the communion rails, on a board attached by a nail to the north wall, is an epitaph on the right virtuous gentlewoman, Mrs. Elizabeth Berrington, wife of the right worshipful Humphrey Berrington of Bishopstone, in the county of Hereford, esq., and daughter of the right worshipful Thomas Price of the Priorie of Brecknock, esquire, who dyed the 14th day of February, 1626.

Worth zeal all virtues divine did dwell  
In her who lies intombed within this cell  
Her soul in bliss her body here must rest  
Till Christ shall come and say, rise, rise thou blest  
One child she bore whom death slew in her womb  
And brought both child and mother to the tomb.

Thomas Jones.

This is not, as Mr. Gough says in his second volume of sepulchral monuments, upon *parchment*, but is written or painted, in the German text character, *upon a board coloured or painted white*, and here we beg leave to rectify another error of this very respectable and learned antiquary, though there are none of the graves he describes in this church or churchyard. The figure he gives of some, which he saw in Wales, nearly resemble a bee-hive with a hole in the top, whereas the graves in this country are not wattled nearly around, as he represents them, but only on the sides, to prevent the earth from falling, when collected in a heap, as immediately after interment, and are of a parallelogramatic form, narrowing at the head and widening at the feet. This trifling inaccuracy perhaps arose from a habit of making a rough sketch, while the object was in view and finishing at leisure and at a distance, a practice too prevalent and difficult to be avoided, but productive frequently of material errors.

#### FIGURES OF RICHARD PRICE AND WIFE.

Below the board first mentioned, to the south west, are seen the outlines of the figures on the gravestone of her uncle Richard Price and his lady before mentioned, though the inscription is gone; the next was an altar-piece, and placed in the wall over the altar: it is of very high antiquity, perhaps cœval with the church. The figures are in *alto relievo*, and represent the ascension, one person stands on each side of the representation of our Saviour, and below are four others kneeling.

#### OTHER MONUMENTS.

Below the communion, or as Hugh Thomas describes it, under the high altar, were deposited the remains of Edward Games of Newton, esq. (who will be hereafter noticed) with the following inscription:

Hic sepultus erat doctissimus EDVARDUS GAMES, armiger legum peritus et pater patriæ qui obiit 1564, Die 9, Septembris, cujus animæ propicietur Deus.

Not a trace of these letters remains, so that the stone has probably either been broken or removed.



Proceeding southward, Frances Owen, daughter of Evan Owen<sup>1</sup> clerk, late rector of Beguildy, *obiit* 1692. Frances Williams, widow of Thomas Williams of Taley, in the county of Carmarthen, esq. *obiit* 1731, *ætatis* 45; she was one of the daughters and coheiresses of Francis Lloyd of Crûgcadarn, esq., a judge upon the North Wales circuit, and she had issue by Thomas Williams, Lloyd Williams, who died an infant, and Elizabeth, who married Owen Evans of Pennant, esq., only son and heir of Owen Evans, clerk, archdeacon of Cardigan, one of the daughters, and at last, sole heiress of Lodowick Lewis of Pennant, esq. Jane, the other daughter of Judge Lloyd, married John Waters of Brecon, esq., and left one daughter Jane, who married Sir Halswell Tynte, baronet. On the south west wall,

MS.

Eodem sepulchro tumulata jacent corpora duarum sororum, Francisæ Owen et Susannah Brewster; *obiit* Susannah primo die junii 1719 primo nupta Rheso Powel de Boughrwd, deinde Gulielmo Brewster, M.D. utriusque uxor amatissima.

Below, on the same wall, 'Sacred to the memory of Sarah, the wife Hugh Powell, late of Cwmclyn, in the parish of Devynock, Com. Breck. esq., *obiit* 1687, *æt.* 76.'

TOMBSTONE OF REV. REES POWELL, FOUNDER OF BOUGHROOD CHARITY.

On a flat stone beneath,

Here, in hopes of a sure and joyful resurrection, sleeps the body of Mr. Rees Powell, minister of the gospel, and late rector of the church at Aberedw, in the county of Radnor, whose diligence in his calling, steadfastness in the true faith, exemplary piety and permanent charity, the generations yet to come, and grateful poor, will have just cause to remember, and speak more of, than any monument can contain; for a good name is like a precious ointment, and the memory of the just shall be blessed for ever: he finished his short course here in the fifty fifth year of his age, upon the fifth day of May, in the year of our redemption, 1687.

Sic itur ad astra, Monumentum hoc sanctissimi amoris et obsequii Symbolum mærens erexit, fidissima conjux,  
Susannah Powel.

This pious and good man, by deed, dated the 6th of January, 1686, gave and conveyed to Sir Rowland Gwynne of Llanelwedd, knight; Sir John Powel, one of the judges of the court of Exchequer; Edward Jones of Buckland, esq.; James Baskerville of Aberedw, gent.; Owen Griffiths of Llandevaillog, clerk; William Powel of Llangattock juxta Crickhowell, clerk; William Watkins of Penyrwrlodd, gent.; Charles Lloyd of *Gwernyfjet*, gent., and Lewis Lloyd, his son and heir; James Parry, of Trostre, gent.; John Watkins of Aberedw; and Richard Parsons, of Brecon, mercer; the manors or lordships of Upper Elvel, Aberedw, and Garreg, and the common, castle and forest of Colwyn, Radnorshire. To hold to these trustees and their heirs and assigns, in trust, to lay out twenty pounds annually, in placing out poor children, natives of the town and borough of Brecon, or of the parishes of Saint John the Evangelist, Saint David's, or Aberyseir, to some lawful trades, in the borough of Brecon, with the approbation of the bailiff and aldermen, or any two of them, the kindred of the donor, being natives of the borough or parishes just mentioned, to be preferred; and ten pounds annually, for a stock or fund, to enable such children to set up their trades; also twenty pounds annually towards placing out poor children, natives of Hay and Builth, and of the several parishes of Llanigon, Llanellieu, Talgarth, Llanafan fawr and Llanwrthwl, in Breconshire; Cregrina, Llanelwedd, and Bettws Disserth, in Radnorshire; and ten pounds, in like manner, for setting them up in their trades; also twenty four pounds yearly, to be paid to the principal, or vice principal of Jesus College, Oxford, to be by them paid to two poor scholars or undergraduates, members of the said college, share and share alike, for their better maintenance and encouragement in the prosecution of their studies, the said two scholars to be natives of the counties of Radnor and Brecon, or one of them, the kindred of the donor, if such can be found, to be preferred; and if there should be no scholars natives of these counties, then to any two scholars or students in the said college born in Wales, also, five pounds, annually to the churchwardens and overseers of Boughrood, to be laid out, with the approbation of the vicar, in settling a native of that parish an apprentice to some honest trade or occupation, also eleven pounds a year to an honest careful man, to teach and instruct poor children, natives of the borough of Brecon, in the English tongue,<sup>2</sup> the better to enable them to serve God and manage their trades or occupations; with power to the survivors, upon the death of two or more of the trustees, to appoint successors, so that there may always be twelve at the

<sup>1</sup> From the habit of ringing the change of names prevalent in the 17th and preceding centuries, we suspect that Owen Evans, archdeacon of Cardigan, was son of Evan Owen, rector of Beguildy, and that the wife of Francis Lloyd was Elizabeth, one of the daughters or sisters of this Evan Owen: the name and interment of Frances, the daughter of judge Lloyd, among the family of the Owens, confirms this conjecture.

<sup>2</sup> In reference to this part of the will, Theo. Jones makes the following comment in a note:—"It is not clear to me, from these words, whether this good divine intended these children should be taught to read and write or not. I am sure I should respect his memory much more if I thought he did not, notwithstanding the fashionable mania for parochial and Sunday schools, which, 19 times out of 20, only teach boys to misapprehend their bible, to prate and become troublesome in their neighbourhood." The genial historian was a martyr to gout, and he must have experienced an extra painful twinge to cause him to write this.



least. The premises hereby conveyed are of the annual value of one hundred and seventy pounds, and out of this fund they are now enabled to settle twenty boys in every year. The present trustees are Sir Charles Morgan, bart., M.P.; Walter Wilkins, esq., M.P.; Reverend William Morgan; Walter Jeffreys, esq.; Thynne Howe Gwynne, esq.; Jeffreys Wilkins, esq.; Thomas Harcourt Powell, esq.; Penry Williams, esq.; Walter Wilkins, the younger, esq.; the Reverend John Williams, archdeacon of Cardigan; and the Reverend Richard Davies, archdeacon of Brecon.

#### AN ANCESTOR OF THE TREDEGAR FAMILY.

Descending from the communion rails and passing the monument of Sir David Williams, we see two stones placed against the wall, which were removed upon the interment of a Mrs. Arabella Nixon, who died at the Lion inn, in this town, in her road to or from Ireland, and left the whole of her property to her man and maid servants: on the first, 'Here lyeth Morgan Llewelyn of Ystradfellte, who married Gwladis, daughter of David Gwalter of Dan y fedw, gent., and had issue William Morgan, esquier, king's attorney of South Wales, and recorder of this borough, he died the——day of——.' (Arms, 1 Vaughan, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 Havard, 4 Rhys Grug, 5 Rhys Goch, 6 Pichard, 7 a lion rampant, 8 ditto.) On the other stone, 'Here lyeth the body of William Morgan, esquire, king's attorney of South Wales, and recorder of this borough, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Morgan of Tredegar, and had issue William, Elizabeth, Mary Ann,——.' There is no date to either of these inscriptions, or at least, if there ever were such, they have been effaced. William Morgan died in 1650; his son William married and had issue an only daughter and heiress, who marrying William Morgan, of Machan and Tredegar, brought with her Dderw and the Breconshire estate, which has ever since continued in that family.

#### THE LEWISES OF FFRWDGRECH.

Nearly opposite, but further northward, is a Welsh inscription, in German text, the letters in relief, without beginning or conclusion; it is to the memory of one of the Lewises of Ffrwdgrech, it had the date of 1580 upon it, and is as follows, "Thomas Lewis vab Llywelyn, vab Morgan, vab Davydd, vab Howel ychan, vab Davydd, ap Rhys y ddimmaw; y wraig cynta ef oedd varged jennys (Margaret Jennings) 'ai henaf fab yw Sion Lewis, yr ail wraig oedd, Elizabeth verch Meredydd Games.'<sup>1</sup> Near him, is the grave of his eldest son, by the second wife, Edward Lewis, father of Thomas Lewis of Mynachty, near Presteigne in Radnorshire, which the English Welsh of that country most *naughtily* corrupt into *Minaughty*. The inscription is, 'Heare lyeth the body of Edward Lewis of this town, gent.; he married Anne, one of the daughters of John Nott of Sheldsley, in the county of Worcester, esq.; they had issue Thomas, John, Elizabeth and Joyce, he died 27th September, 1654.' (Arms, impaling his wife's erroneously, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, the chevron ermine, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Gwys, 4 Einon Sais, 5 Hughes, 6 Justin ap Gwrgan, 7 Progers, 8 Brychan, 9 ———, 10 a lion rampant, 11 ditto regardant, 12 a lion rampant, crest Rhys Goch: Femme bears a lion rampant, but her arms were, azure, a bend between three leopards' heads erased *Or*; these are the arms of Nott of Great Sheldsley, or Sheldsley Beauchamp, in Worcestershire, as given by Nash, in his collections of that county, by which we are also informed that the crest of the family, upon a wreath of their colours, was a hound sejant ermine collared *Or*. Motto, *Solus mihi invidus obstat*.)

#### THE HARBOTTLE MONUMENTS.

Near the north wall: 'Hic depositum est quicquid mortale Lanceloti James filii natu maximi Meredithi James Generosi qui post sex annos in accademia Oxoniensi rei literarice nec sine spe aliqua exhibitos tandem lethali morbo correptus ad parentes suos charissime dilectos advenit et in illorum gremiis expiravit animam 18 die Augusti anno salutis 1716, ætatis 23. Veniat regnum tuum, Oh Pater cœlestis!' (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch, over all, on an escutcheon of pretence, 'three icicles or *air bottles*, in bend Herbert, otherwise Harbottle.) On another stone, 'Lancelot Morgan, town clerk of this borough, who was youngest son of William Morgan of the same borough, esq., deceased, and Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Meredith James of the same borough also deceased, departed this life the 24th day of March 1753, æt. 29.' Near him: 'Here lieth the body of Rebecca James, the wife of the above named Meredith James, who died 3rd January, 1720, æt. 56.' She was the mother of Lancelot James, and one of the daughters of Lancelot Herbert, otherwise Harbottle, who died in 1691.

The first of the family here (says Hugh Thomas) was one Lancelot Harbottle, changed afterwards by the general corruption of the Welsh, who alter all surnames for shortness of speech, into Herbert; a man born in the town of Kendall in Cumberland, of parentage unknown, and by his trade of mean education, yet his name and county speaks him to be descended of the ancient

<sup>1</sup> The pedigree of Games and Lewis of Ffrwdgrech, shew this to have been an inscription to the memory of Thomas Lewis of Ffrwdgrech.







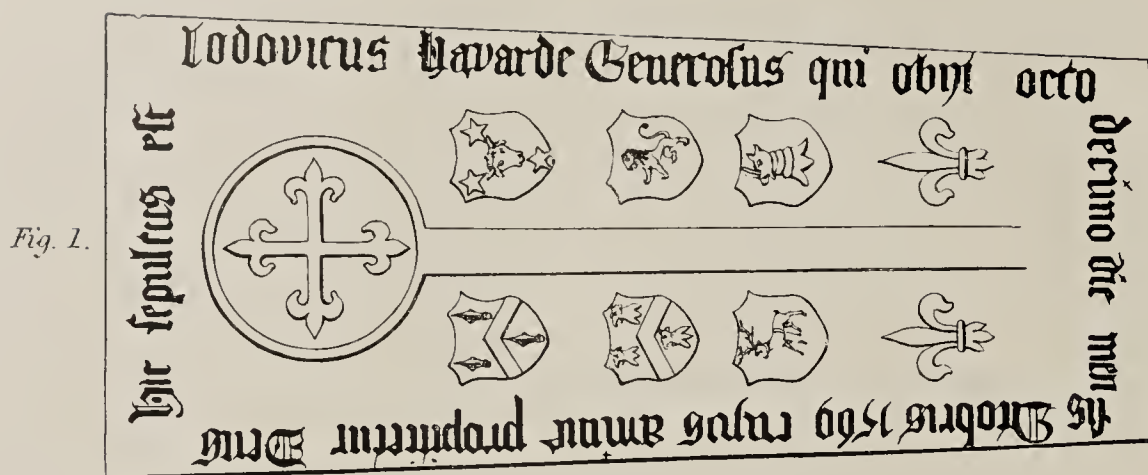


Fig. 2

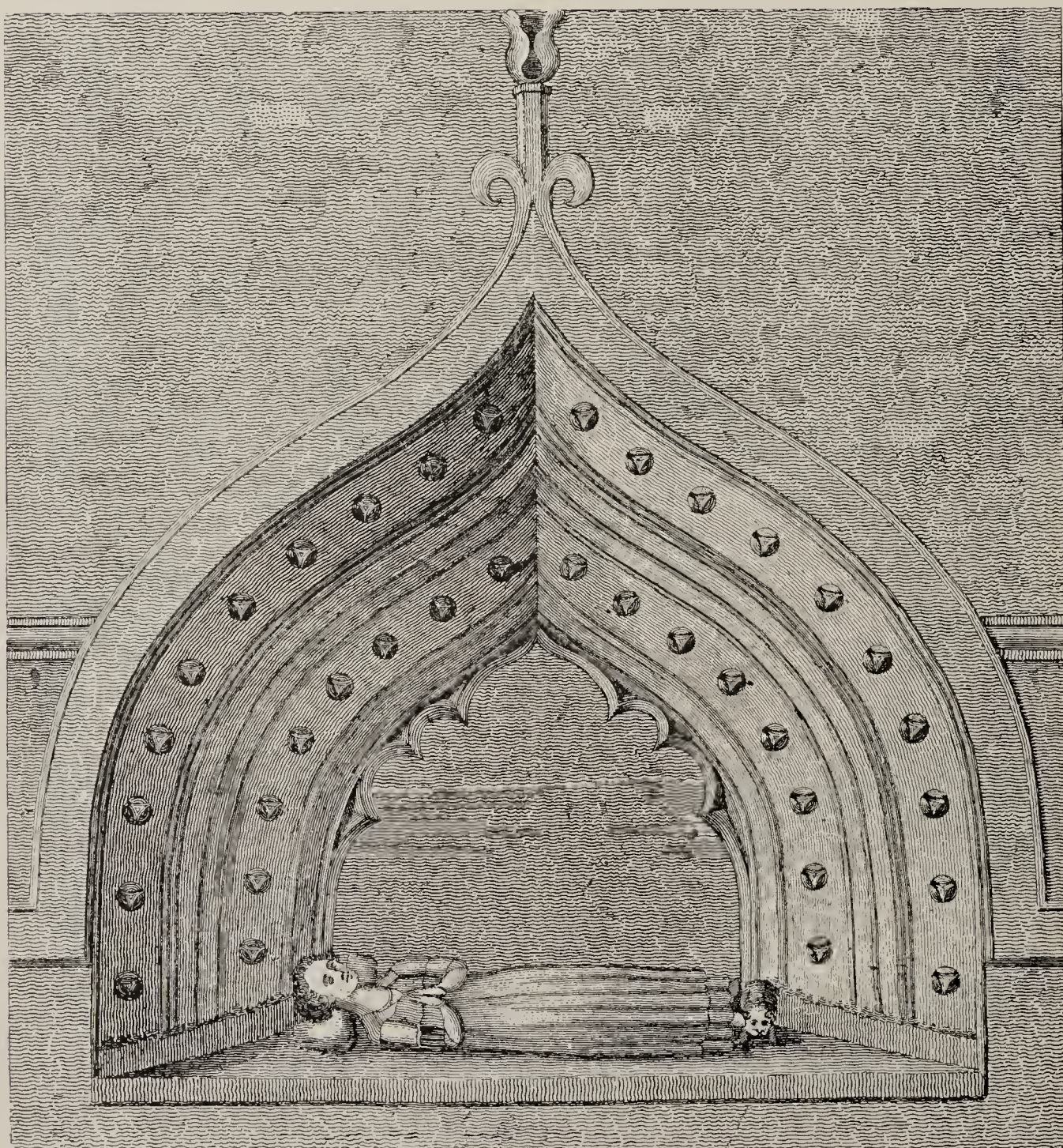


PLATE IV.—MONUMENTS IN PRIORY CHURCH.

*From Drawings by Rev. Thomas Price ("Carnhuanawe").*



families of the Harbottles of Northumberland, of which Sir William Dugdale makes mention in his *English Baronage*, where he says that one of the noble family of Percy, earl of Northumberland,<sup>1</sup> was married to a daughter of Sir Guiscard Harbottle, some of which name are now of considerable note in those parts. This Lancelot Harbottle, coming into Herefordshire, and marrying with Bulcott's (the first of this town) wife's sister, a woman of mean parentage, was probably persuaded by his wife's brother in law, who was then a man of authority and note, to come and set up a mercer's shop here, in which he met with success: he was buried in the chancel of the Priory, with this inscription, 'Here lyeth the body of Lancelot Herbert, who died the 14th day of September, 1617.' He being then bailiff, who first married Mary, daughter to Richard Peerce, they had issue William, Catherine and Elizabeth; he married secondly, Joan, daughter of Thomas Matthew, they had issue one daughter, Anne. Catherine was wife to Edward John Howel of Gaer, by whom she had issue Henry ap Edward, Mary wife to Thomas Bulcott, and Anne. Elizabeth was wife to Wynter Jones, attorney at law, by whom she had issue, Herbert Jones a seaman, John Jones a parson, and William. Anne, the daughter of the second wife, never married, but had issue a base son, called Edward, common bellman of the town, in 1700, by Roger Games, son to Edward Games. William Herbert, otherwise Harbottle, of Brecknock, mercer, married Anne daughter of William Wynter of the same town, by whom he had issue Lancelot Herbert, Charles Herbert of Bristol, who died issueless, Mary the wife of Thomas Vaughan, mercer, Elizabeth, married to William Harris of Abergavenny, mercer, and Margaret, wife to Michael Churchey, grocer: he married secondly Anne daughter of Roger Bulcott, gentleman, his cousin german's daughter, by whom he had issue Roger Herbert, mercer, Anne wife to Thomas Bulcott, esq., and Susan wife to John Lock, apothecary, and after his decease to George Peak, gent.: he was some time receiver of the king's rents for this audit, and three times bailiff of this town, and five times alderman, he died February 20th, 1692, being above eighty one years of age, having seen his great grand children married or marriageable, and about eleven families extracted from his own body, by his two wives. His son (the last Lancelot Herbert) of Brecon, mercer, married Rebecca daughter to Thomas Penry of Llwyncyntefn, by whom he had issue William, Anne wife to John Price, mercer, Rebecca wife to Meredith James, gent., town clerk, and Margaret wife to Charles Sandys, gent.; he died before his father in 1692-3, and was buried in his grandfather's grave in the Priory chancel. William Herbert, mercer, only son and heir of Lancelot Herbert, married Mary, daughter of William Phillips of Penrhwtin, esq.; he died issueless, and gave his estate away from his sisters and family to his wife, so that now there is no memory of this family left in the male race, except this young man's uncle, Roger Herbert, who is now a pretty aged bachelor, and not a stone in the Priory to their memory; that which was laid upon Lancelot the first being broken in four pieces. They were a people ambitious of honour, but we could never learn what their coat of arms was, but that they were imposed upon by some subtle herald by a device of their coat of arms, which were, azure a dragon's head erased sable, with a right hand couped in his mouth and upon a chief gules and Or, two fleurs de lis of the second, which colour upon colour is all *false* heraldry, which every *vulger* herald knows, and is a fit emblem to signify a venomous fellow being beaten black and blue out of his own country for his villany, but their true coat of arms is azure three clubs, in bend Or, the knot end upwards, as was quartered by the earls of Northumberland in right of the aforesaid heiress.

Hugh Thomas might well mistake this bearing for three clubs, to which they bear a greater resemblance than they do to anything else in the creation, animate or inanimate, unless it be to three tadpoles, but *punning* heralds had certainly in contemplation an allusion to the name of Harbottle when they blazoned and formed these bubbles or icicles: this practice in heraldry, childish as it appears, so far from being reprobated is rather encouraged, particularly in mottoes, which, when they are of this description, are termed *canting*. These arms are still borne quarterly with Bleddin ap Maenarch by the Reverend Thomas Jones, who is descended from one of the daughters of the last Lancelot Herbert, and possesses the whole of the property of Mr. Meredith James.

#### THE BULCOTT FAMILY.

But to return to the chancel of the Priory. On the north wall, further westward than the burial place of the Herberts and Jameses, is a marble monument to the memory of Mrs. Mary Williams, daughter of David Williams of this town, esq., by Anne daughter of Thomas Bulcott, she died in 1794, aged eighty four. And below her, further southward:—

Here lyeth the body of Mary, wife of Thomas Jones of Tredustan, esq., second daughter of Thomas Boulcott of the borough of Brecon, esq., by Anne his wife. Obit 1723.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Thomas Percy, second son of Henry Percy, sixth earl of Northumberland, attainted for being concerned in Ask's conspiracy in 1587, married Eleanor daughter of Guiscard Harbottle of Bemish, in the county of Durham. The Harbottle arms are the 17th among the 150 quarterings of the noble family of Percy! *Edm. Bur. Gen.* vol. 3, p. 267, 271.



Also Anne, who first married Thomas Boulcott, by whom she had issue Thomas, Anne, and Mary, she married secondly Jehosaphat Jones, by whom she had issue one daughter, Barbara. Obiit 1723, *æt.* 71.

Near this place probably, though not now visible, was a stone noticed by Mr. Townsend of the Herald's Office, yet we do not recollect ever to have seen it; the inscription as taken from the MS. was,

Here lyeth the body of Roger Boulcott, son and heire to Thomas Boulcott, esq., who married Mary daughter to John Caradine (Carwardine) of Gileston, in the county of Hereford, they had issue John, Roger, Anne. He diod the 28th day of March 1637.

Here also lyeth the body of Thomas Bulcott, eldest sonne unto the said Roger Bulcot, who married Anne, the daughter of Lewis Morgan, master of arts, vicar of Brecon, who had issue living, Thomas Bulcott: he died 8th July 1659.

The first of this family who settled in Brecon, Hugh Thomas says, came also from Herefordshire, he was an apothecary, and made a large fortune by his profession; his son, Thomas Bulcott or Boulcott above named, served the office of sheriff of the county of Brecon in 1679. Mrs. Hughes of Tregunter, whose maternal grandfather, Mr. Thomas Jones of Tredustan, married one of the daughters and coheiresses of the last Thomas Boulcott, now quarters the arms of the family, viz., sable, a bend between six martlets *Or*, but more correctly, argent, a bend *Or* between three bald coots or dobchicks proper, in allusion of the name, though the *vulgar* herald above mentioned hints that the apothecary who settled in Brecon, was the first of the family who ever assumed arms.

#### THE GWYNNES OF ABERCRAAF.

At some distance, near the middle of the chancel, are interred some of the Gwynnes of Abercraaf, who settled at Newton, Pontwilym, and Abercynrig, with their children; one stone commemorates the death of Howel Gwynne, called of Abercraaf, but at the time of his death of Pontwilym, in 1740, aged 76; Gwenllian his wife, in 1758, aged 87; Thomas, Walter, Edward and Anne, their children, all died young. Howel Gwynne of Newton died in 1775, aged 60, Theresa, Maria, Gwen, Maria and John, his children, also died young: (arms, 1 Brychan, the field argent and the fess and swords gules, 2 as 1 a lion rampant regardant of the second, 3 Awbrey without the chevron in a field of the first, the eagles' heads of the second, 4 Cadwgan ap Elystan Glodrydd.) Nearer the entrance into the chancel, 'Howel Gwynne of Brecon, esq., *obiit* 1744, *æt.* 48, and Elizabeth, his wife, in 1741.'

#### WILLIAMSES OF GLUDY.

At some little distance, 'Here lieth the body of William Williams of Lower Gludy, who married and had issue ten children, living Juan, Ales, Anest, and Maud, he died———March. Richard Williams of Gludy, *gênt.*, *obiit* 1692, William Williams, his brother, 1692. Richard John William, who married Gwladis, daughter of Philip Prichard, who had issue three children, living Walter, Howel, and Elizabeth; and at the entrance into the chancel, after much perseverance and labour, with the assistance of a young but most zealous antiquary, an inscription was recovered, nearly effaced, upon the gravestone of the wife of Dr. John David Rhys, the learned author of a Welsh and Latin grammar, called *Linguæ Cymraecæ Institutiones*, whom we shall briefly notice hereafter, and who probably lies interred here, but dying a Roman Catholic, he was ashamed to inform posterity that he got into the company of Protestants; the inscription upon his wife is this:

Hic jacet Agnes Garbet filia Johis Garbet viri nobilis natione Herefor. uxor Johis David armigeri natione Britan. medicinæ doctor Senensis; filios habuit septem quorum unus Walterus David adhuc vivit. Mortua vicessimo die Maii 1617.

#### THE MONUMENTS IN THE CHAPELS.

Quitting the chancel, we now proceed to the chapels, beginning with Cappel y Cochiaid, and reserving the body or nave of the church to the last, where many a memento of the departure of the forefathers of the town are concealed by the pews.

On the south-west wall of this chapel, called frequently the Norman chapel, is a marble monument, on which is the following inscription:

Near this place lio the bodies of John Price of this town, esq., and Anne, his wifo. one of the daughters of Lancelot Herbert of the same town, gentleman, deceased; the said John departed this life the 23d day of September, 1719, aged 74, and Anne, his wife, the 10th day of August 1699, aged 43. To whose memory this monument was erected in pursuance of the last will and testament of Jenkin Price of this town, esq., their only son and heir by their groat grandson the Reverend Mr. William Morgan. In the same place lies interred the body of the said Jenkin Price, barrister at law and recorder of this town, who by the same will, gave twenty shillings a year<sup>1</sup> for ever towards the repairs of this chapel, he died the 26th day of April 1735, aged 54; and also the body of Anne, eldest daughter of the said John Price, and Anne, his said wife, who was married to Edward Morgan of the parish of Penderin, in this county, gentleman, late deceased, sho departed this life the 16th day of September, anno domini 1719, aged 47. (Arms below, argent three bulls' heads cabossed sable, Price of Devynock and Llywel impaling Herbert or Harbottle, the field argent and the icicles or air bottles sable.)

<sup>1</sup> A similar benefaction of 20s. per annum for the repairs of this chapel was given by the will of Mr. Thomas Harris of Brecon, registrar of the diocese of Saint David's in 1629. We deviate from the original plan in this and another instance, because there is no table of benefactions in the Priory church; the charitable donations to this parish being noticed and recorded in Saint Mary's chapel.



Southward is another marble monument attached to the wall,

Near this place lie interred the bodios of Walter Jeffreys of this town, esq., and Magdalen his wife: the said Walter Jeffreys dyed the 19th day of May 1748, aged 71 years; the said Magdalen dyed the 14th day of June 1734, aged 50 years: the said Walter Jeffreys left issue by the said Magdalen, Edward Jeffreys, gent., Sibill, the wife of John Wilkins of this town, gent., Jane Jeffreys, spinster, and Magdalen, the wife of David Morgan of Bettws, in the county of Radnor, gent. (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch.)

On the opposite wall,

Near this place lyeth the body of William Phillips, esq., late recorder of the town of Brecon, he departed this life on the 18th day of January, 1721, aged 58, leaving behind him one daughter, Anne Phillips.

Descending to mother earth, the graves are found in all kinds of geometrical figures; to begin however at the entrance into the chapel, we see a stone to the memory of Henry Hughes, 'son of John Hughes, sonne of John Hughes,' who died 19th September, 1655: he was of the family of Hughes, an attorney of this town, whose property centred in Hughes of Llanddety and Allen of Crescelly in Pembrokeshire.

Westward, 'Here lyeth the body of Mary Powel, only daughter of James Powell of this town, ironmonger, who was the youngest son of Thomas Powel of Craswall, in the county of Hereford, esq., counsellor at law, her mother was Mary, daughter to Thomas Perrott of Llanvihangel tallyn, clerk, she died 29th October, 1701.' (Arms. 1 three Cornish choughs, in chief a mullet, 2 the sun in his glory, Delahay, 3, Perrot, 4, Justin ap Gwrgan.) Next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of Thomas Powel, gent, only son of James Powel, of this town, ironmonger, who died ——— 1690.' Near them, 'Here lyeth the body of James Powel of this town, ironmonger, who married Mary, daughter unto Thomas Perrot of Llanvihangel tallyn, Breconshire, they had issue Thomas and Mary, obit 1670. Here lyeth the body of Richard Jones of Aberllyfni, gent., who married Joyce, the daughter of Harry Parsons of ye said town, he died 1679.' On this stone has been since inscribed Alice, the wife of Meredith Penry, died November 25th, 1775, æt. 58.

Near this is another to the memory of Mary, the wife of John Waters of this town, esq., daughter of Thomas Penry of this town, mercer, she died in 1682, and had issue four sons and two daughters, whereof only one son survived her. (Arms, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Elystan Glodrydd, 4 Cadwgan ap Elystan, 5 Proger, 6 Herbert, 7 as 1, 8 as 2.)

At some little distance, 'Here lyeth the body of Thomas Bannister, who married Rebecca, daughter of John Cruso, apothecary, obit 1737.'

On the next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of John Davies of this town, who married Gwenllian, daughter of Meredith Games of this town, they had issue John, Richard, Rebecca and Jennet, obiit 24 September 1658. (Arms, 1 an eagle with two necks displayed. Bloet, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 Vaughan Tyle glâs, 4 Cradoc ap Gwilym.)

Further southward two stones, on one, 'Here lieth Richard Jones of this town, *fiscer*, who married Margaret, daughter of John Watkins of this town, they had issue John, Evan, Rowland, John, William, Thomas, John and Anne, *obiit* 1694.'

On the next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of David Jones, son of John David of Pont ar vran, *obiit*. 1707, æt. 30.'

In a marble square or diamond, on the next stone, 'Here lyeth the body of Morgan Davies, gent., who departed this life the 18th day of March, 1727, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Prosser of this town, mercer, they had issue Thomas, Morgan, and Elizabeth.' Below Mr. Jeffrey's monument:—

Hic jacet corpus Hoeli Thomas Morgan ap Rytherch nuper ballivus de Brecon, qui obiit 28 Decris 1623, ac qui nuptus fuit Margaretæ filicæ Leolini Williams de Garreg vawr armigeri, ex cujus corpore habuit tres filios et tres filias Thomas Powel, Llewelyn Powel, John Powel, Maud Powel, Margaret Powel et Jennet Powel.

#### MONUMENTS TO THE PENRYS, LLOYDS OF RHOSFERIG, ETC.

On the wall near the Hughes's chapel,

To the memory of Rice Penry, esq., who, in the year 1677, was both high sheriff of this county and bailiffe of this town, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Hughes of Trostrey, in the county of Monmouth, esq., and left issue by her Elizabeth, Charlotte and Mary, he died the 29th day of December 1683.

Below,

Here lieth the body of Martha, the wife of Charles Penry of this town, esq., second daughter of James Allen of Gilestone, Glamorganshire, by Mrs. Winifred Giles, daughter and heiress of Major William Gilos; obiit 1724, aged 52. Also, said Charles Penry, obiit 1727, aged 53. (Arms, Penry impaling Allen, viz. sablo a cross cramponne Or.)

Here lieth Meredith Penry, A.M., vicar of Brecon, who married Mary, daughter of Thomas Howel of Cynvilgaio, in the county of Carmarthen, esq., and left issue by her four sons, Meredith, Thomas, James, and Benjamin, and three daughters, Hannah, Mary and Margaret, *obiit* 1676.

Near him,

Here lieth the body of Merodith Penry, son of Hugh Ponry of Abersenny issaf, *obiit* May 6, 1799, æt. 84. Thomas Penry, surgeon, *obiit* August 6, 1769, æt. 66.



In the middle of this chapel are two stones ; on one,

Thomas Philips, late of Trostre, in the county of Brecon, esq., *obit* 18 October 1761, aged 50. Also Priscilla, his wife, *obit* 1787, aged 83. And Anne Watkins, their daughter, died 1793, aged 53.

On the other,

Frances, the wife of Thomas Phillips of the town of Brecknock, second daughter of Charles Vaughan of the same town, esq., died the 22d March, 1757, *æt* 25.

These were of the Pont y wal family,

Mr. Philips, the recorder, whose monument has been noticed, was a Devynock Philips ; indeed the similarity and consequent confusion of names, after surnames were adopted in Wales, can in no instance be more clearly exemplified than in this chapel ; here are two families of Philips, between whom there were afterwards intermarriages, who are continually crossing and jostling each other.

Below the memorial of the death of Mr. Walter Jeffreys (as before noticed), is that of his son Edward's widow Joan, who died 24th December 1786, aged 69. At a very little distance from them are two other tombstones, on one,

Here lieth the body of John Jeffreys, son of Jeffrey Jeffreys, mercer, of this town, he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Morgan Awbrey, he was twice bailiff of this town and seven times alderman, and died January 22, 1718.

On the other stone,

Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Lloyd, widow of David Lloyd, late of Rhosferig, gent., and only child of John Jeffreys, late of this town, gent, *obit* 1732, aged 43. Also Mary, her youngest daughter, wife of Pennoyre Watkins, gent., she died 1762, aged 34. Also John, William, Pennoyre, and Mary (infants) children of the said Pennoyre Watkins and Mary his wife.

These are all of the Llywel Jeffreyses, but several of the Jeffreyses of Abercynrig and the Priory are buried here : these families having also frequently intermarried with each other, it is very difficult to distinguish these two houses of different tribes, especially as they both possessed the same mansion.

#### HUGHESES OF TREGUNTER AND OTHERS.

On the ground, in the recess of Hughes's burying place,

Here lyeth the body of Henrietta Wellington, one of the daughters of George Wellington of the Haywood, in the county of Hereford, esq., *obit* 1755, *æt* 68. (Arms, gules, a cross in saltire vair, over all an *escutcheon of pretence* Hughes !)

Mary Hughes, wife of Richard Hughes, of this town, died 25th January, 1718. Here also lie buried two of the children of Richard and Mary, they left issue behind, Charles, Elizabeth, John, Mary and Richard. John Floyer Hughes, second son of Charles Hughes of this town, by Mary, his wife, eldest daughter of John Floyer, of Whitehouse, in the county of Monmouth, who died ——— September 1751, *æt*, 21. Charles Hughes, eldest brother of said John Floyer Hughes, died May 5, 1756, *æt* 28.

On a monument affixed to the wall,

In memory of Richard Hughes, late of this town, esq., who died 13th June, 1739, aged 78, and Mary, his wife who died 25th January, 1718, aged 51 years ; he was 13th child of Charles Hughes of Trostrey, in the county of Monmouth, esq., she was eldest daughter and coheirress of John Philpott of Monmouth town, esq. : of their seven children, five lie buried near this place, namely, Richard, Charles, Mary, Elizabeth and Mary. Also, Charles Hughes, esq., grandson of the above Richard and Mary, who died May 5, 1756, in his 28th year. Erected by John Hughes, esq., third son of Richard and Mary. Here also lie the remains of John Hughes, esq., who died August 9th, 1744, aged 70 years, and though blind from his youth, blessed with a sensible and enlightened mind. (Arms, Hughes impaling Philpott, with an anulet by way of a difference for the fifth house.)

Near this monument is another, on which is a long inscription, to the memory of Amelia Maria Hughes, youngest daughter of Samuel Hughes, esq., and Anna Maria, his wife, who died June 9, 1794, having nearly completed her eighth year ; and over a door, formerly leading into the chancel, now stopped up, is a hatchment, placed there upon the interment of the late Mr. Samuel Hughes of this town and of Tregunter, without any inscription ; he died February 21, 1794 ; and his two sons did not long survive him, both dying single and in the prime of youth, so that, numerous as the family were a generation or two back, the name in the male line is now extinct at Brecon ; similar occurrences may be frequently observed and perhaps physically accounted for. They settled in Breconshire upon the appointment of their relation, Richard Jones, to be agent for the Tredegar estate in this county, to which situation two or three of this family succeeded ; they have now likewise failed in Monmouthshire, but a branch still remains at Cheltenham. The arms on Mr. Hughes's hatchment are quarterly, 1 argent,<sup>1</sup> a chevron between three fleurs de lis sable, Hughes, 2 argent, a bend gules between three Cornish choughs proper, beaked and legg'd of the second, 3 argent, a Wyvern's head erased vert, having a bloody hand in his mouth, 4 as 1. Over all, an *escutcheon of pretence*, argent, a stag winged behind proper, having a crown between his horns Or, Jones of Tredustan, crest an arm, vambraced and hand proper, holding a fleurs de lis argent.

<sup>1</sup> We give them here at length, because the arms generally borne by the Hugheses of Trostrey were sable, a chevron between three fleurs de lis Or, and sometimes the chevron was omitted.



Before crossing the aisle, we wish to preserve an inscription noticed by Mr. Townsend, to the memory of Thomas Walter, son of John Walter, mercer, by Jane, daughter of John Mason; her mother was Juan, daughter of Lewis Gwyn, esq. This Thomas married Jenet, daughter to Saunders *Sherbery*, and they had issue Thomas, Anne, Jane, Elizabeth, Catherine and Jane, he died ——— May 1631. (Arms, a chevron ermine between three dolphins.) Not a remnant of this stone remains, but they are so frequently displaced, removed and broken, that we can easily account for its being no longer visible. The name of *Sherbery* occurs in the churchyard, where there is a tombstone, having the butcher's arms upon it, to the memory of Meredith Watkin, butcher, and Roger Meredith, his son, who married Gladis, daughter of Richard John *Sherbri*, they had issue ———, *obit* 1603.

## MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS IN THE BATTLE CHAPEL.

The chapel of the men of Battle is little better in appearance than a barn; it is in fact now only an entrance into the church, the floor is of earth, save where it is here and there covered with a tombstone, indeed it would be useless to lay out much money upon it as a place of worship, if such it can be called, for the voice of the clergyman in the pulpit in the aisle, could barely be heard here, and we are inclined to think, that when it was appropriated for the attendance of the inhabitants of the hamlet of Battle during divine service, the pulpit must have been placed in the middle of the aisle, where the cross chapels intersect the nave, or else as is more probable, that it was used for private masses for the souls of the deceased, which were frequently celebrated at the same time that the public liturgy was going on in the nave and choir. On a stone just below the door,

Here lyeth Mary, the daughter of Evan David of this town, tucker, wife of Roger Jeffreys of this town, mercer, they had issue eight children, viz. four sons living, Jeffrey, John, Roger, Evan, and four daughters, Maudlen, Elizabeth, Mary and Margaret, *obit* 1695. (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch, impaling a lion rampant between three fleurs de lis.)

Near this stone, another, having a cross flory on three grieves *in relief*, to the memory of David ap Jeuan Thomas of Battle, who married Maud, daughter of Thomas David ap Rhys, they had issue William, Thomas, John, Evan, Jonet, *obit* 2nd October, 1674. On another stone, *nearly square*!

Here lyeth the body of Maud, the late wife of Meredith Thomas Richard, she departed this life ———, 1600, and had issue John Meredith.

In the middle of the chapel are tombstones to the memory of the late Mr. Mitchell and his father:

Here lieth the body of Thomas Mitchell of Battle, esq., who died 21 January, 1805, he married Anne, daughter of Robert Holt of Heyhouse, in the county of Lancaster, gent., by whom he had two sons and two daughters, who died young, he was only son and heir of Henry Mitchell of Battle, esq., by Margaret, eldest daughter of Thomas Penry of Llwynceynvin, esq.<sup>1</sup>

Near him are inscriptions to the memory of the Browns of this town:

Here lieth John Brown, weaver, who married Catherine, daughter of David Williams of Battle, she afterwards married Walter Brooks, he died May 9, 1730, *aet.* 43, she November 5, 1746, *aet.* 56, they left issue Evan, Elizabeth and Catherine; Evan died December 11, 1770, *aet.* 42, Sybil, his wife, April 16, 1765, *aet.* 41.

This chapel is divided from the Havard's chapel by a wooden partition and rails: when the latter lost its first appellation, we cannot say; it certainly has been called indiscriminately the Havard's and the Vicar's chapel ever since the reign of Elizabeth. The arms of Havards, three bulls' heads cabossed, with the motto, "Hope in God," are still seen on the eastern pine end. On the wall which divides this building from the chancel is a marble monument to the memory of Joanna, third daughter to Edward Hughes of this town, attorney at law, relict of James Thomas of Slwch, in this parish, gent., who afterwards intermarried with Thomas Rodd of Marden, in the county of Hereford, attorney at law, &c., *obit* 1741: at her desire her body was interred in the grave of her niece Anne, by Elizabeth, her eldest sister, wife to Thomas Philips, A.M., vicar of Laugharne, in the county of Carmarthen. A tombstone below commemorates the same Mrs. Johanna Rodd, who by her will, charged Tyr Nant y defaid ycha, alias Tyr John Jenkin William, in Llandefalle, with the payment of ten shillings on the first of May, annually, to the vicar and churchwardens of Saint John the Evangelist, to be applied towards the repairs of Cappel yr Havardiaid,<sup>2</sup> in the said church, and with the payment of twenty shillings annually, to be given to four poor widows of the town of Brecon, on Wednesday in passion week, with power of distress in case of non payment. This tenement is now (1805) in the possession of Mr. Allen of Crescelly, in Pembrokeshire, to whom it descended from Mrs. Florence Hensley, named in this will, his maternal grandmother.

Mr. Townsend, whose industry and perseverance in this *cold pursuit*, is as ardent and indefatigable, as his knowledge in his profession is eminent, has here preserved an inscription nearly obliterated, which will be seen in plate IV. figure I. This Lewis Havard, we believe, to be Lewis

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Mitchell, who was bailiff of Brecon in 1742, and who married Esther, the daughter of David Williams, was buried here; the date of his interment is defaced, he died in 1744, and was the father of Henry Mitchell above named.

<sup>2</sup> It is also thus described in the will of Walter Havard of Brecon, in 1624, who gave 20s. and the best piece of squared timber tree that lay in Morgannok street, towards the repairs of this part of the fabric.



Havard of Aelvanog, grandson of William Havard of Aberbrân. Though this Lewis Havard has almost disappeared, another of the name and family lies buried here, who is described as Lewis Havard of Blansenni, attorney at law, he married Mary, the daughter of William Awbrey, esq., and died ——— 1723, *æt.* 43. He left an only daughter, who intermarrying with an inhabitant of Shropshire, brought to her husband an estate called Blansenni, from whom it descended to a Mr. Guest of Knighton, in Radnorshire, ancestor of Mr. Guest, attorney, now of Bristol, and by whom it was lately sold. Not far from this stone, is another upon the father in law of this Lewis Havard, William Awbrey of Brecon, gent., who died in 1704, placed there (as it states) by his sons, William and Timothy Awbrey. (Arms, Awbrey, impaling, a fess dauncette between three crescents, Harris of Gloucester.)

## OTHER MONUMENTS IN THE SAME CHAPEL.

Further northward,

Here lieth the body of Meredith Watkin of the town of Brecon, in the county of Brecon, glover, who married Frances, the daughter of William Hughes of the said town, corviser (they had issue two daughters, Frances, she died, Margaret, now living); who died the 17th day of January, 1680. (Arms, 1 a bend and in chief two crescents, in base a lion rampant 2 Havard, 3 as 1, 4 Burchill.)

Near the north wall,

Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Harris, the wife of Walter Harris of the city of Gloucester, she died the 16th day of January, in the 71st year of her age, A.D. 1691. (Arms, a fess dauncette between three crescents, impaling a lion rampant within a bordure verdoy.) She was mother to Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Awbrey, who died in 1704.

On a marble monument, attached to the same wall, the inscription nearly obliterated, and not legible without close inspection and considerable trouble,

Here lieth the body of Gabriel Powel of Pennant, in this burrough, gent., several years stoward under two successive dukes of Beaufort, of the lordship royal of Gower, in the county of Glamorgan, some time bailiff of this corporation, and a strenuous assenter of the rights of inhabiting burgesses against foreigners, who died 5th November, 1735, aged 60.

Below this is a tombstone to the memory of

John Robinson, first son of John Robinson of the town of Ludlow, in the county of Salop, gent., who married Elizabeth, daughter of Lewis Powel of this town; he lived in the fear of God, and died in charity with all men.

This John Robinson was a stationer, and left an only daughter, who married Daniel Williams, tanner, third son of the first Richard Williams of Aberbrân.

In the middle of the chapel are gravestones to the memory of many of the Prossers, mercers and saddlers of this town, and their issue, now extinct. Near the black marble tombstone,

Here lieth the body of John Jeffreys, mercer, beinge bailiffe of this towne, he married Margaret, the daughter of Howell ap Evan ap Roger, they had issue fifteen children, living Jeffrey, Howel, John, Lewis, ———, Anne and Elizabeth, obiit 1604.

He died while bailiff of Brecon, and was of the Abercynrig family, being the ancestor of Roger Jeffreys, the husband of Mary, the daughter of Evan David, noticed here to have been buried in the Battle chapel. Near him,

Here lyeth the bodye of David Vaughan, onco bailiff and town clerk of this towne of Brecon, the son of Richard Vaughan, of Llangeryne, gent, linally descended from Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine, knight, he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Francis Powel of Crickhowell, gent, obiit 1686.

He died intestate, and we believe without issue, and what became of his property we know not, it was probably very considerable, as his wife's father received a vast accession of property upon the death of his brother, Henry Powel, who made a fortune in trade, and by purchasing for small considerations, several beneficial leases during the Commonwealth.

Further westward is interred a near relation of Hugh Thomas the herald, who is omitted in the pedigree,

Here lieth the body of Roger Thomas, son of William Thomas and grandson of Roger Thomas of this town, gentleman, who departed this life the 10th day of November, 1685, and Blanch Bevan, who departed this life——. (Arms, 1 Brychan, 2 Marchell, 3 Hughes, 4 Justin.)

It is impossible to make out this man according to the pedigrees, though Hugh Thomas has left a genealogy of this family, which we must naturally suppose he spared no pains to make correct, especially as to his contemporaries; Roger Thomas of Brecon was the son of Thomas ap John of Llanfrynach, the son of John Thomas, by Maud, the daughter of Thomas Awbrey of Cantreff: this last named Roger had a daughter Blanch, who married secondly Walter Bevan, but he had no son of the name of William. William, the brother of Hugh Thomas, was the son of William Thomas, but he had no son of the name of Roger Thomas, so that unless the shade of the deputy herald may be permitted to explain his affinity it must remain in uncertainty.

Proceeding eastward from this grave, an inscription to the memory of Jonett Havard, daughter of Thomas Havard of *Cain Castle*, in the parish of Talgarth, gent., *obiit* 1696. An error of the sculptor for *Carn Castle*, or rather *Carn y Castell*, a farm in that parish, not far from Dinas, now the



property of Mrs. Hughes of Tregunter, and probably the residence of the foresters to the lords of that fortress. One or two persons of the name of Harper, of the Lion inn, are buried here, as is the late wife of Mr. Longfellow, the present landlord. Near whom, but further southward, a stone, on which we read.

Here lieth the body of Ann, daughter of Watkin Thomas William, she married Evan John Goch, they had issue Watkin, Llewelyn, Elizabeth, Elinor, Jonet and Gwenllian, she died 13th January, 1623; (below are represented Saint George and the dragon.)

Another stone commemorates the death of Gabriel Jeffreys, surgeon, without issue, in 1766, and of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Williams of Wern, in Talgarth, and granddaughter of David Powel of Llan y wern, in 1747, aged 18.

Attached to the eastern pine end wall is a stone monument to the memory of Thomas Charles of Brecon, gent., who died in 1741. (Arms, azure a fleur de lis Or, on a chief gules, a castle triple towered argent.) This family are from Glamorganshire, one of them was curate of Llansaintfread in the last century. On the same wall, northward, a marble monument records the interment of Esther Elliston, of London, spinster, who died November 10, 1737, aged 37, and of Elizabeth Elliston, her sister, who died May 1757, aged 55. (Argent, an eagle displayed sable.)

Still nearer to the churchyard, another marble monument to the memory of Henry Williams of this town, gent., *obit* 1736, *æt.* 74; Johanna *ejus uxor*, *obit* 1731, *æt.* 66; Thomas Williams, clerk, (late vicar of Brecon), *obit* 1787, aged 89; Catherine (Elliston) his wife, 1752, aged 46; Edward Williams, gent. in ———, aged 51, and Joan, his wife. (Arms, quarterly 1st and 4th, Cradoc ap Gwilym 2d and 3d, gules, 3 castles triple towered proper, impaling Elliston). This was a younger branch of the baronets of Eltham, there is a doubtful link or two in the pedigree, which makes it incomplete, but as the descendants in the male line have failed, it is not material, for this title is clearly extinct.

#### ARCHDEACON DAVIES'S MONUMENTS AND OTHERS.

Richard Davies, clerk, B.D. (predecessor of Mr. Williams, who has just been named), archdeacon of Saint David's and vicar of Brecon, who died 22nd November, 1768, and Richard Davies, clerk A.M. his son, and successor to Mr. Williams, which last named Richard Davies was one of the canons of Saint David's, and died 22d August, 1804; both lie interred beneath two tombs, within iron railings, on the northern outside wall of this chapel. The archdeacon of Saint David's came into this country from Myddfe in Carmarthenshire, where his family were respectable but not affluent, they had been in the habit from time immemorial of ringing the changes of Richard David and David Richard. Our vicar was the first who followed the English fashion, and *steadied* the surname into Davies. His father's uncle was rector of Llanvihangel Penbedw, in the county of Pembroke, vicar of Llangewelach, in the county of Glamorgan, and died in 1729; he calls himself William Prichard, and by his will of this date, he notices his nephew, the last named Richard Davies, whom he appoints executor; Richard Davies married Hannah or Johanna Williams, one of the daughters of Mr. Henry Williams of Brecon, attorney; by this connexion he increased his fortune and influence, but he possessed, independently of these advantages, very eminent talents, and was a very learned scholar.

Before leaving this chapel, it should not be forgotten, that in a recess or niche, similar to that in the shoemaker's chapel, which will be hereafter described, and under an arch, there appear the remains of an effigy in stone, of a person in a recumbent posture, but whether male or female cannot be ascertained, for it has been so mutilated and defaced, and is now so nearly covered by the wall built upon it, that little more than the outline or profile part of it can be seen.

#### IN THE NAVE OF THE CHURCH.

Entering into the church we are interrupted and prevented in our pursuits by the seats, right and left, which cover a great number of the tombstones, whereunder many a sage forefather of the borough sleeps: on the right is an inscription concealed except the words Lander Jones, gent., of Lanvabey, in the county of Monmouth, they had issue one sonne and one daughter. This stone covered the remains of Morgan Jones, the father of Howel Jones, and grandfather of Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Tanner, and Mrs. Lewis; he married Mary, daughter of Lander Jones of Lanvabey, by Susan the daughter of William Herbert. This is one among *many* instances where the MS. genealogies are confirmed by the tomb. This daughter of course must have been Susan, the wife of Lander Jones and daughter of William Herbert of Lanvabey, but we do not see how she or her husband was connected with Howel Jones, from whom the Tanners and Mrs. Hay are descended, and yet this is the usual burying place of these families; the name of Tanner appears on a stone under the seat, and on a marble monument above, attached to the wall in an inscription to the memory of Charles Hay, esq., who died March 13, 1785, aged 64; Mary Hay, his widow, who died March 26, 1791, aged 69, and Elizabeth, the widow of the reverend Rice Price, who died August 8, 1788, aged 70.



Proceeding from east to west and commencing at the entrance into the chancel we meet with two of the descendents of one of the Norman knights :

Here lieth the body of John William Skwl, paternally descended of Sir John Skwl, knight, he married Anne, daughter of Howel Morgan of Devynock, they had issue William, Thomas, Margaret, Elizabeth, Gwenllian, Jonnet and Joan, obiit 1680, æt. 78. (Arms Skull impaling quarterly, Vaughan and Pitchard.)

Near this stone is another, on which,

Here lyeth the body of William John William Skwl paternally descended of Sir John Skwl, knight, he married Jane, daughter of Gwalter John of the parish Trallong, gent., they had issue John, Gwalter, Thomas, Anne, obiit 1685, æt. 38. (Arms, Skull impaling a bend between six dolphins naiant.)

Next stone, 'Here lieth the body of Lleiki, the daughter of Thomas David, who married Samuel Owseley, grocer, of this town, they had issue four sons and three daughters, whereof Samuel is now living, obiit. 1675.' (Arms, three boars' heads.) In the middle of the aisle, 'Here lieth the body of Evan ap Richard, tanner, who married Jonet, one of the daughters of Thomas Games, obiit 1507.' (Arms, two shields, on one a stag statant regardant, on the other a lion rampant.) Under the pulpit, 'Here lieth the body of Thomas ap Jeuan of this parish, who died on the 9th day of 7ber, 1682.' On the same stone, 'Here lieth the body of Thomas Williams of this towne, gent., he died November 5, 1699, aged 56.' This Thomas Williams was one of the Llanspyddid family; he married Alice, the daughter, we believe, of the above named Thomas Evan; by her he had issue one daughter only, Gwenllian, who married first Hugh Penry, son of Rees Penry of Cefnbrith, esq., by whom she had issue Catherine, the wife of the late Charles Powel of Castlemadoc, esq.; she married secondly Walter Vaughan of Merthyr, esq., by whom she had issue Elizabeth, who married Peter Chabbert, esq.; and thirdly, she married Edward Jones, clerk, vicar of Merthyr (of the family of Jones of Gilfach yr heddwch near Llandovery), by whom she had issue Thomas Jones and the present Mrs. Williams of Pen issa'r waun. Near them,

Here lyeth Jane, the daughter of Thomas Boulcott, esq. who married ——— Waters, they had issue Margaret, she died in childbirth of Margaret, who is here buried with her, 28th April 1631. Roderick Prytherch of Llanspyddid, esq., obiit 1751, æt. 56; Anne his wife, 1772, aged 78.

#### THE POWELS OF CASTLE MADOC.

On the wall near the pulpit are two cenotaphs, erected pursuant to the will of the late Miss Powel of Castlemadoc; one to the memory of her father, Mr. Charles Powel, and her mother, Catherine Powel, the latter of whom died in the year 1740, at the early age of twenty four; and the other to the memory of Margaret Powel, another of the daughters of Mr. Powel, and wife, who died 20th April, 1774, aged 30. Arms, on both, quarterly, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, the field azure, 2 Elystan Glodrydd, 3 Brychan, 4 as 1. Crest, the arms of Rhys Goch. Motto, 'Gwell marw na chwilydd' (better to die than shame); correctly, it should have been, 'Gwell angau na chwilydd' (better death than shame): the ancient family motto was, 'Fy Nhwu 'n unig' (My God only).

#### PRICES OF NANTGWARED AND OTHERS.

Nearly opposite is a stone monument, bedaubed and painted in a most tawdry manner, having the arms of Vaughan, with a crescent, by way of a difference, impaling Awbrey, to the memory of Mr. Daniel Price, late of this town, apothecary, he was of the Prices of Nantgwaredd, in Llywel; his epitaph has considerable merit.

MS.

DANIELIS PRICE, viri ob pietatem et ecclesiæ amorem Animique candorem et perspicacitatem conspicui cui adfuit vultu gravitas, in factis æquitas, in moribus simplicitas, In tota vita integritas. Qui vivero sic noverit non ignoravit mori. Liberos procreavit 15, superstites reliquit 10, Viz natos 4, natus 6 ex uxore Elizabethæ, Guliohri Awbrey filia. Obiit die 22 Decembris, Anno Dom. 1716, ætat. suæ 52.

On his tombstone below, he is described as second son of Rice Price of Llywel, by Anne, daughter of Daniel Williams of Abercamlais, gent. Not far from the graves of part of the Cefnbrith family, lie two or three of the Vaughans of Brecon, the descendants of the Vaughans of Bredwardine. Walter Vaughan, brazier, died in 1796, Elizabeth his widow, in 1803, aged 78, an infant child of theirs, named Walter, and two or three children of William Vaughan, their only surviving son, by Sarah his wife; and upon the same gravestone, Anne White, widow of the late Dr. White, Christian-Malford, Wilts, died October 19, 1786, aged 82. Further westward are two Welsh stanzas, vilely spelt and not worth preserving, even if the orthography had been more correct; one is upon the grave of Evan Peter, son of Peter Evans of Brecknock, tanner, who died in 1681, aged 16, and the other to the memory of Thomas Philips of the parish of Llywel, who married Margaret, daughter of Owen Peter, and who died in 1719, aged 65.

#### ISABELLA POWEL, DAUGHTER OF DR. JOHN POWEL.

But to make ample amends for these 'uncouth lines,' we have near them an epitaph in prose, which contains, in a plain and unaffected phraseology, an eulogy more valuable than the laboured



epitaphs we read on the monuments of the great and the wealthy, and more worthy of admiration than the proudest panegyric of the poet; and

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,  
Their homely joys and destiny obscure,  
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile,  
The short and simple annals of the poor.

The inscription follows: "In memory of Isabella Powel, who, though the daughter and only child of John Powel, doctor of physie, by the vicissitude of human affairs was obliged to have recourse to service for a maintenance, in which station she behaved with such probity and integrity, as gained her the regard and esteem of all who knew her, and having lived respected, she died regretted, upon the 4th day of February, 1757." Not far from hence,

Here lyeth the body of Alice, daughter of William Thomas, wife of Arthur Mitchel of this town, carpenter, they had issue one daughter, Jonet, she died 19th June, 1696.

Here lieth the body of Tobias Williams, esq., who married ———, daughter of James Harris of Abergavenny, obiit 1663. (Arms, 1 Bullen, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 three hedgehogs, 4 as 2, 5 as 1.)

Henry Parry of this town, vintner, who married Ales, the daughter of Erasmus Williams<sup>1</sup> who had issue Erasmus and Mary, died 1653. (Arms, partic per fess, a bend, on which three stags' heads cabossed between three wolves' heads erased, in base a chevron between three tons.) Not far from the western door, southward, is a stone of a very old date and letter, all that can be read is, *Hic jacet Ricardus Willyam et ejus uxor*. "Here lieth the body of William Perrott, who married Cissil Garland, obiit 1684." The father of this Cissil was a hatmaker; there were two or three of this family of good repute in trade in this town.

#### WEAVERS' AND TUCKERS' CHAPELS.

The weavers' and tuckers' chapel has very few tombs, and those not worth noticing; the tailors' and corvizors' chapel is so covered with dirt, dust and rubbish, that none of the inscriptions can be entirely made out. In the wall is a niche under a gothic arch, under which is an effigy in stone, long known by the name of Mary Drell; it was of course supposed to be a female, and from her, say the inhabitants, the name of Mardrell in the neighbourhood! This figure, however, seems from the tonsure, to represent a priest or person of some religious order, but Dr. Milner, who is much better skilled to determine upon this subject, insists it is a layman and not a religious or person in holy orders, probably a provost of one of the guilds or trades in this borough; the effigy will be seen in plate IV. fig. II. and readers may judge for themselves. If Dr. Milner be correct, (as it is most likely he is), perhaps this provost was inrolled as one of the brothers of this convent, though he was not in orders, and from this circumstance he may have been permitted to adopt the tonsure; readers will see in Ralph Baskerville's charter to this religious house an instance of a layman and *his wife* being admitted into the fraternity in full chapter.

Within the rails, where the font is placed, on the west wall, "In memory of Anne, the wife of William Gunter of this town, surgeon, obiit 1777, aged 35, she was only daughter of Joshua Parry of Trectower, esq., and widow of John Powel of Moor Park, esq." Below, but further northward, on a tombstone, "Here lyeth the body of William Thomas of this town, who married Jonet daughter of Harry John of this town, had issue six, living three, William Williams, Alice and Maud, he died May 16th, 1676. (Arms, a cross flory upon three grieces.) "George Morgan, esq., obiit November 15th, 1788, æt. 67; Anne, *uxor* 13th January, 1791, æt. 67."

Before quitting the church, we notice one truly classical epitaph on a neat marble monument:—

MS..

DAVIDIS FILII, Revdi Davidis Griffiths, Vic. de Merthyr, Scholæ Coll. Brechin. Prefecti et Probendarii de Llandegla, ex Francisca filia Hugonis Morgan de Bettws agro Radnor ex Elizabetha filia natu maxima Caroli Hanmer armigeri ex illa perantiqua et illustri gente Hanmerorum de Hanmer Com. Flint, pueri optime indolis et ingenii, morum et oris suavitate, facile noti; magna parentibus promittentis si Deus opt. max. annuisset, sed aliter voluit et fiat voluntas, obiit enim 3<sup>o</sup>. Cal. Maias, Anno Dom. 1769, Ætat 12<sup>o</sup>.

Juxta filium in paco requiescit Francisca, Prædicti Davidis Griffith dilecta uxor Marito filoque Carolo superstitibus oropta plures gravioresque causas et desiderii et doloris reliquit quæ in virtutibus sita sunt bona implevit quæ in salvis amicitiiis constantiam servavit omnibus officiis socialis privatæque vitæ inter omnes quas terra sustinuit Nulli secunda ejus vitæ puritatem Religionemque non simulatam Beata Æternitas comprobabit Piam animam Deo reddidit 7<sup>o</sup>. Idus Martias 1792, Ætat. 58.

(Arms, Hanmer, viz. gules, on a bend argent, a lion passant, sable crest, on a wreath of his colours, a lion sejant of the third. These arms are not correct on this monument, Hanmer of Flintshire and

<sup>1</sup> He was a physician and of Llanffoist in Monmouthshire. The arms here given are the mere whim or the Lapidary of his employer.



of Beachfield in Salop, bear argent, two lions passant gardant azure, crest on a chapeau, gules turned up ermine, a lion sejant argent.

#### TOMBS IN THE CHURCHYARD IN 1800.

There is little interesting in the churchyard, where to attempt to record the names of the deceased, and their years, as spelt by the unlettered muse, would be to copy an erroneous transcript of the parish register. On the left hand, coming out of the church by the western door, are two or three ancient gravestones which cover the remains of the Wynstones, and some of them have their arms sculptured thereon. Near the porch entering into the churchyard, "Here lieth the body of Dennis Jones, daughter of Jenkin Jones of Trebinshwn, by Luce Vaughan, daughter of Henry Vaughan, doctor of physie, late of Newton, in the parish of Llansaintfread, she died 29th August, 1780, aged 92."

#### THE WYNSTONES AND OTHERS.

On the right hand of the path, leading to the western door into the church, Alice, the wife of Roger Wynstone of this town, barber, died 5th July, 1696, they had issue Charles, Thomas and Florenee. (Arms, Wynstone impaling Bleddin ap Maenarch.) Charles, who probably caused this stone to be placed on his mother's grave, was an apothecary, and died in 1714, leaving by his wife, Elizabeth, only one daughter, Catherine, upon whose death, without issue, he devised a tenement in Brecon to his nephew, Roger, the son of his cousin Richard Wynstone, he also mentions Charles, the son of Walter Wynstone; many of this name and family are now living and in trade at Brecon.

Eastward of the door before mentioned, a tombstone to the memory of David Williams of Gaer, esq., who died 1767, Catherine, his wife, in 1783, Rebeeca Morgan, his daughter, in 1771, David Williams, his son, in 1783, and David Williams, his grandson, an infant, 1785. (Arms, argent, three cocks gules, on a chief of the second, three spears' heads of the first) Near the path leading across the churchyard, "Here lies interred the body of Margaret, the wife of John Bruce, esq. of Hesse Cassel in Germany, and daughter of William Bevan of Llandilo fawr, in the county of Caermarthen, tucker, obiit 1769. She was sister to Mary, the wife of Morgan Watkins, a clothier, late of this town." Not far from this stone, "Here lieth Illtid Nicholl, surgeon of this town, paternally descended of Bleddin ap Maenarch, he married Jonet, daughter of David Williams, they had issue David — —, he died 11th January, 1653. (Arms, 1 a lion rampant, 2 — — —, 3 Bleddin, 4 — — —, 5 Bleddin.)

Near the church, "Elizabeth, the wife of Hugh Bold, died 31st October, 1784; Joanna, the wife of Charles Pritchard, surgeon, died 27th January, 1779, aged 50; Rebecca Wood, daughter of John Wood of this town, mercer, died May 8th, 1771, aged 47; Elizabeth Williams, late of Llwyn y wernwd (one of the daughters of David Williams, esq.), died 6th January 1797, aged 70; and near these tombs Henry Williams, second son of Henry Williams of this town, attorney at law, died 9th November, 1723, aged 28."

#### LATER DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

Thus far we have enumerated those memorials recorded by Theophilus Jones and his predecessors. It is related that a full list of the ancient monuments was made a century or more ago, and lodged in one of the institutions of Wales, and that at a later date antiquarians made numerous rubbings of the more ancient stones; but inquiry has not resulted in a recovery of these. Since Theophilus Jones's time, the whole aspect of the church, so far as sepulchral monuments are concerned, has been changed. With the exception of that near to the altar, all the monumental effigies and inscriptions referred to by him have been removed elsewhere, principally to the Havard Chapel and the transepts. For many years the ancient church presented the appearance of desolation, and during that period many of the monuments must have suffered: indeed the wonder is that so many have survived to this day. In one case the large memorial to a well-known public man, born in the borough, was taken from the church and presented to a Nonconformist Chapel in the town; and at a later date, several very massive monuments were brought from St. Mary's Church, and placed in the north transept: we refer to the Pennoyre Watkins Memorials. And of course many new tablets have been erected in the church during the past 100 years. The chancel and choir are now given up to a display of brasses relating to officers and men of the 24th Regiment, so long associated with the county, who have fallen in the wars, and the liberality of those connected with that regiment has done much to adorn the sacred edifice.

But before proceeding to catalogue these, it will be necessary to refer to the condition of the church previous to the restoration so happily completed in 1875. For this purpose we cannot do better than quote the remarks of competent contemporary writers, who spent some time within the precincts of the building, and made themselves acquainted with the actual condition of affairs.



Major H. S. Davies, of the 52nd Regiment Light Infantry, stationed at Brecon about 1846, has left a very interesting account of the Church at that period, which is worth preserving as showing its then condition, together with some drawings, which are also reproduced. He says: "The Church is a most imposing mass of building, comprising a nave, with aisles, a chancel, and north and south transepts, each of which have aisles on their Eastern sides, and communicate by deep moulded Early English arches with the chancel, but these have been for some years blocked up by the monuments of the Camden family. The remains of a chapel, unroofed, with an altar-window and piscina, on the South side of the great chancel, are visible; the entrance being by a small door. The chancel and nave have at their entrances under the intersection of the transepts beneath the great tower, finely worked open screens of the Decorated period. The interior of the chancel deserves especial attention, from the beauty, delicacy, and fine finish of the masonry. It is lighted by lancet windows, on each side, of great height, which, splaying inwards, are separated by three detached slender and banded Early English shafts, supporting the commencement of a groined roof, which it appears was never finished. The East window is a combination of lancets."

After giving the dimensions of the nave, chapels, etc., the same writer proceeds: "Nearly the whole of the transept and chancel are paved with large monumental slabs, ornamented with highly floriated crosses; many exhibit the badges of ancient guilds, as old, it is supposed, as the times of the Edwards. Five chapels in the nave are designated the Weavers', Tuckers', Tailors', Corvisors' (shoemakers'), Glovers' or Skinners'; and at a remote period these guilds had probably their different halls for meeting for the settlement of their affairs. Little remains now of the monastery attached to this Church: the stables of Lord Camden's residence appear to have formed either a refectory or a dormitory, of considerable size. Some large lavatories remain, and a tomb, said to be that of Bernard Newmarch, which stood under the great tower, was pulled down, and converted by the old women of the parish into means for scrubbing their tubs and milk-pails. . . . The original font, probably the gift of the founders of the Abbey, is at the West end of the Church, and it is a very fine specimen, but mounted on a barbarous modern base. It appears older than anything that surrounds it. Near the altar in the chancel is a remarkable slab, in very high relief, of about four inches, surrounded with a deep projecting moulding of the same depth. *The subject is a rood, with figures of souls in purgatory beneath.* The Priory was called 'The Church of the Holy Rood, and this slab, which, from its relief, appears not suited to have been a monumental pavement stone, may possibly, I think, have been gilt and coloured, *forming a portion of the reredos to the high altar*, to which it now lies adjacent. The nave is used on Sundays for Divine Service, and the Holy Communion is always administered in the chancel."

The late Mr. J. R. Cobb, in his "Short Account of St. John the Evangelist or The Holy Rood at Brecon," first published in 1874, writes that shortly after the period described by Jones, "the first symptoms of a better state of things began,—the dilapidated Games' tomb was removed, and the floor of the transept flagged with tombstones brought out of the nave or elsewhere. It is true this movement further distinguished itself by removing the screens of the guilds . . . but it was alleged they, with the tombs, were too much damaged to be restored, and the transepts were ceiled so as to cover the tops of the windows, and the pews were made uniform; but still there was a sign of some care for the Church itself. From that date attempts were made from time to time by subscriptions to prevent decay, and in 1836 Lord Camden covered the chancel with slate, not thereby adding to the beauty of the fabric, but most effectually contributing to its preservation. A glass screen was erected between the choir and the nave, much condemned indeed for want of taste; but still apparently the only reasonable means of making the nave serviceable until larger sums were available for the restoration of the transepts. And, as the walls tell us, the church was then repewed, and 295 sittings, of which 250 were free, were added to the 414 before existing, of which 39 were free. The nave was warmed by flues, and the transept windows were again glazed."

In 1853 the Cambrian Archæological Association visited Brecon, and Mr. Freeman, the eminent architect, wrote a paper upon the St. John's Church and Priory, and again in 1856, he remarked: "Brecon is indisputably the third church not in a state of ruin to be found in the Principality. It comes beyond all competition next after the two southern Cathedrals; it might possibly venture even to dispute the second place with Llandaff. With nothing to compare with the individual splendours of that building—with absolutely no West front and a very inferior nave—Brecon is a grand and perfect whole, which Llandaff is not. Its external idea is that of pure bulk, and no building ever better expressed it. Its outline, as a matter of picturesque effect, is inimitable, but there is little external detail. This, however, is amply made up within by the splendours of its magnificent presbytery—one of the choicest examples of Early English style, on a scale intermediate between the sublime majesty of Ely and the diminutive elegance of Skelton." And at this time, Mr. Cobb



writes, "It will be borne in mind the nave alone was used for service, the pulpit and desk being near the North-east respond to the nave arcade. The chancel had the same pitch to its oak roof which the nave yet has, with a hipped end, somewhat similar to that lately existing on the West. The tomb of Sir David Williams, with its four-post canopy, projected from and entirely obscured one section of the piscina and the whole of the sedilia. The 16th century screen extended across the arch, dividing the chancel from the lantern. The two arches, communicating with the North and South chancel chapels, were filled with marble slabs bearing inscriptions to the members of the Camden family, now against the South wall of the South transept. The roofs and ceilings of the transepts came down below the heads of the windows; the South transept was almost in darkness, deriving light only from the three lancets situate at a great height and partially blocked. There was a glass screen filling the arch between the nave and the choir; the arches giving access to the rood loft were hid—on one side by the Commandments in plaster, and on the other by a marble monument. The high deal panelled pews built on the floor, covering the bases of the piers in the nave, almost obscured the piers themselves, and the whole from end to end was covered with lime wash laid on unsparingly at stated intervals at least from the time the monastery was suppressed. The East end of the Shoemakers' Chapel was enclosed with a lath and plaster partition, for the most part at right angles with the centre of the recessed effigy, but turning away ingeniously so as to form a dark corner at the feet, used as a receptacle for old books, hassocks, and lumber of all sorts, the enclosure being used as a vestry."

In 1858, after a prolonged stay of the Marquis Camden and his family at the Priory House (then the residence of William de Winton, Esq.), his lordship made an offer to restore the chancel, if the parishioners would restore the choir, transepts, and chapels. The Marquis sought the assistance of Sir Gilbert Scott, who, on November 6th, 1860, reported as follows: " . . . . In undertaking the restoration of the Priory Church of Brecon, you are preserving and perpetuating a work of a high order of architectural merit, and one in every way worthy of all the care which can be bestowed upon it. . . . The present condition of the interior of the noble structure is melancholy in the extreme. Though its dimensions are by no means such as to cause inconvenience from using it in its integrity, the nave alone is made use of for Divine service, the whole of the Eastern portions being partitioned off by an enormous glazed screen. The most beautiful half of the church—thus left without the pale—is left in a state of deplorable desolation. Happily, the structure itself—so far at least as concerns its walls—is sound and substantial. The good old builders, though hardly, we can suppose, foreseeing the disrespect to which their work would for a time be subjected, nevertheless practically provided against it by the solidity and good construction of the stonework, so that we have not any very formidable constructive repairs to undertake." Sir Gilbert then outlined what he proposed for internal restoration; he proposed "To cleanse from whitewash all the stone dressings, repairing such parts as are seriously damaged, but preserving all remnants which may be discovered of any ancient colouring, whether on stone-work or plaster; to re-pave the floor, retaining the ancient monumental stones, but laying them hollow on a bed of concrete so as to put an end to their miserable dampness, and generally to put the whole into a perfect state of repair."

"In the chancel," he continues, "I would take one step beyond the restoration of what now exists, or, perhaps, has existed,—I mean the completion of the stone vaulting, without which half the beauty of the original design is lost. The North Chapel will demand more structural restoration than most parts, inasmuch as its windows have lost their mullions and tracery. These may pretty safely be restored from those of the aisles of the nave, with which the East window of this chapel agrees. It may be asked why we should not restore this chapel to its original form? As a matter of taste, I would most gladly do this, but when it is considered that the alteration was made as early as the fourteenth century, and is coeval with the nave of the church; and, on the other hand, that the original design of the chapels is not quite certain, I think it will be agreed that we should be going beyond what is proper if we were to attempt it. I must, however, confess that I am perplexed as to what to do with the roof, which now covers four entire windows of the chancel. One of the transept roofs is, I believe, in such a state of decay as will require either extensive reparation or renewal. I should desire if possible to restore both of these roofs to their original pitch. The upper stage of the tower is a good deal cracked owing to the malconstruction of the roof, which has no tie whatever. A considerable amount of reparation will be consequently demanded both to the walls and roof. The floors of the tower will also want reparation; and an oak ceiling must be placed under that which is visible from the church. Externally the walls demand a certain amount of reparation and pointing. The foundations must be examined, drained, and underpinned where necessary. The glazing necessary must be renewed. Finally, the interior must be prepared for use by proper fitting, and the present glazed screen removed."



This, then, was the report which resulted from Sir Gilbert Scott's examination of the church in 1860; and under his direction a new roof, covered with local stone and tiles, was put on the presbytery, of the pitch originally designed, and the vaulting completed below the former ceiling, which yet remains entire between the vaulting and the new roof. The floor was tiled, and the tomb of Sir David Williams removed to the Vicar's Chapel, exposing to view three sedilia corresponding with the treble piscina. The screen was removed, and the inner pair of shafts of the Western arch are corbelled off in the same way as those of the Eastern, so that no conclusion in favour of there having been a second screen in the Eastern arch can be drawn from this. The roofs of the transepts were raised in conformity with that of the chancel, to the pitch shown by the weather mouldings on the tower.

In the Havard Chapel, Sir Gilbert Scott elected to restore it to its later character with a single gable, thus obscuring the chancel lancets, instead of to its earlier, with two gables. The Havard tomb and stone, and some of the tombs in this chapel, are worthy of careful attention.

"The chapels on the South," Mr. Cobb continues, "remain as they were. From the original foundations, exposed by Sir Gilbert Scott, it is clear that originally these chapels were of similar size, if indeed they were not of similar design to those on the north. A window has, however, been inserted in the southernmost arch on the East side of the South transept; for which there seems no authority. The window described by Mr. Freeman in the Western bay of the presbytery on the South side has been removed. When he wrote, the stairs in the thickness of the wall on each side, leading to arches communicating with the rood loft, were not visible. These amply confirm his conclusions as to the position of the rood loft and choir. The rood must have been of unusual size, and the church appears at one time to have been known by the name of the Church of the Holy Rood. The steps and door on the South side appear to have been intentionally broken down for about two feet. The turret stairs in the South-west angle of the nave are worthy of notice—it would appear that access was gained to them from below only by a ladder to be pulled up after ascent was completed. The porch is certainly picturesque and quaint in its details, and must be of an early date; but it is of inferior workmanship, and, like the sacristy stairs, seems composed of fragments of an earlier building, some of the stones having dates on them. It seems to have slipped on one side, and the gable to have been afterwards restored and coped, without previously restoring the perpendicular, so that the point of the gable is far out of line of the centre of the other work; it has a quaint parvise, with oddly arranged stone stairs, and the floor comes below and obscures the arch leading into the church. The step down from the churchyard into the porch was a handsome coffin lid (now broken up). An ancient oak cope chest, in the form of a quarter of a circle, for holding vestments, deserves attention. The nave and its aisles and the baptistry were until very lately, as they were left when last adorned, except that attempts have been made from time to time to make good the glazing, repair the roof, and scrape the whitewash. The roof timbers are sound, and may preserve the building for many years, while to put new timbers, as would be necessary, if the original pitch is to be restored, would cost at least £3,000, and there would yet be the restoration of the West parapet to follow. The recent scrapings clearly bring out the difference of character of the South and North walls of the nave. . . . The state of the church has been described. Service was just continued on Sundays; but the church became little more than the building in which the burial service should be read over the towns-folk deposited in the adjacent ground. On the closing of the church and churchyard for burials, the vocation of the church seemed almost ended. But when things looked darkest, light came. The movement so well began by the late Marquis Camden, aided by the zeal of the then Vicar, the Rev. Garnons Williams, who was then, and has since continued to be, a large contributor to the expense has, so far as the fabric is concerned, nearly restored the chancel and transepts to their original design."

Writing at a later date, Mr. Cobb says: "The pews have been removed from the nave, and the whole floor lowered between eighteen inches and three feet to its original level, exposing the bases of the piers, and the whole (except the central passage, which is to be tiled) has been flagged with stones found under the floor. The cleansing has exposed to view a plain Early English doorway from the North aisle of the nave, hitherto the vestry, and heretofore the Shoemakers' Chapel, into the North transept, and the whole, as far as the dormer, is covered with a sound oak barrel roof. Probably the doorway was filled with an altar, and the chapel may have belonged to some one with whom the recessed tomb was connected. It has also exposed the excellence of the walling of the North aisle, and of the Northern arcade of the nave, and the inferiority of that on the South sides, especially the external wall of the South aisle. That wall appears to consist of three portions, one ancient with one jamb of an Early English door to the cloisters remaining, a comparatively old filling up of that door, and some modern and very rough walling in which the present wooden window is



placed. It would seem from the commencement of the South clerestory wall by the tower, and some signs at the West end, that it was intended to have an external corbel table to the nave similar to the chancel; but, if so, it must have been further in than the present wall, and yet the present encroaches internally on the choir arch at least ten inches more than on the opposite side.

“The inscription in the East end of the South aisle, that these chapels were RE-BUILT IN 1785, may explain the condition of the South wall of the aisle, but not that of the clerestory. The design of building a wider aisle, evidently contemplated by the arch leading to the transept being so much wider than the aisle—the Southern jamb standing externally in the garden—seems never to have been carried further. An arch under the rood loft on the South side has also been exposed. Possibly, this was the site of the altar under the crucifix, or a recess for a tomb, adjacent to it. Sir Gilbert Scott, speaking of St. David’s, says, ‘Old monastic churches, while the conventual body occupied the choir, had often what was called the People’s altar.’ . . . Mr. Purgin states that it seems to have been the custom of the primitive church, and long afterwards, to sing the Epistle and Gospel from two stone pulpits, placed at the lower end of the choir, so that they could be conveniently heard by the people, and for this reason they were called ambones. These pulpits were also used for chanting, and were called Jube’s, which name was retained when those pulpits were exalted into a lofty gallery reaching across the choir. They were usually ascended by two staircases, either in circular turrets or carried up in the thickness of the wall. The furniture of the rood screen consisted of the rood itself, lecterns and coronels for light. Frequently, as was the case at Norwich Cathedral, there were side altars under the screen; the Commandments were written in front. That there was something of this sort here is confirmed by the very curious sprint from the dormitory nearest the church, in the direction of the rood.”

In recapitulating his remarks upon the work of restoration, Mr. Cobb, whose interest was remarkable, writes: “A parapet corresponding with vestiges of the old has been restored round the chancel and nave, and new lights put in both Eastern and Western gables, the old jambs remaining. The chancel roof has been raised to the pitch originally designed, and the chancel has been vaulted. The Vicar’s Chapel has been treated as before mentioned. It has been doubted by some whether the vaulting of the chancel enhances its beauty, for the reasons given by Mr. Freeman. The existing wooden roof which had to be vaulted off was very good, and height is lost. The same reasoning would have required the original design of vaulting the lantern to be completed; but in the Vicar’s Chapel, where there was nothing desirable to perpetuate, the carrying out of the original design of vaulting would have been most effective, while at the same time the beautiful chancel windows would have been freed. It is hoped this may yet be effected. The transept roofs have both been raised to their original pitch. The window in the South arch of the South transept is wholly new: it seems to detract from the peculiar and solemn effect given by the great height of the other genuine lights. The roof of the South aisle is entirely new, and the wall from the door to the conventual buildings. There were no windows before, this being the north wall of the cloisters. The windows are faithfully copied from those opposite, but the buttresses are omitted. The mullions and tracery of the South-west window of the nave are new, and the corbels supporting the new mouldings to the principals of the nave. The nave roof remains of its former pitch, being now externally far lower than the chancel, while internally it is far more lofty, an effect which it may safely be said was not part of the original design. It would seem that for some reason the rampart or gutter of the nave had been much raised—probably originally it was laid with lead, the roof timbers being supported on a rere wall of some height. On failure of the lead, the water way or rampart had been raised so as to give greater fall towards the gurgoyles, and for the most part paved with heavy slabs—two of the most interesting crosses, one eight feet long, were rescued from this position, where they had been turned face downwards and channelled. It may be doubted whether the channel is not now higher than originally. The angle turret at the South-west corner is wholly new: it was designed in imitation of that on the central tower. It has been thought that a pinnacle would have formed a more effective capping, but no clue was afforded as to the nature of the original work. The porch is rebuilt, and the font newly set. The Eastern pinnacles, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, have been added in memory of the late Marquis Camden, who, as Earl of Brecknock, for some years represented the borough of Brecknock in Parliament.”

Such, then, is an account of the restoration period, and the condition of the church as it now stands; and it only remains to add the notes made by Mr. Bloxham on certain ancient sepulchral monuments there.

“In the North aisle of the nave,” he writes, “within the North wall at the East side of the aisle is a fine open-shaped sepulchral arch, with numerous sets of mouldings, rounds and hollows. In two of the latter the ball flower is inserted at intervals. The arch is surmounted by a plain but



well-proportioned hood mould, and the head of the arch within is engrailed or foliated. Beneath the arch, on a plain high tomb, lies the fine and perfect recumbent effigy of a civilian, well sculptured in stone. He is represented bare headed, his hair curled on each side of the face. He is clad in a long tunic or coat, with close fitting sleeves, with the hands conjoined horizontally on the breast as in prayer. Over the long tunic is worn a shorter and overcoat, with short, loose sleeves, covering the upper part of the arms, but not reaching down to the elbows. In front of the breast, and over the shoulder, is worn tippet-like the hood. The feet, the extremities of which have been destroyed, seem to have rested against a dog. The habiliments are such as we meet with anciently, described as *tunica et supertunica cum caputio*. This is a very interesting effigy of a layman of the middle of the 14th century, *circa* 1350, and the sepulchral arch over is also of the same period.

“In the North-east corner of the North aisle of the choir, on a slab on the pavement, are the recumbent effigies in relief of a civilian and his wife, her effigy being placed on the left side. This is a monument of the 14th century. He is represented as bare-headed, with curled locks on either side of his face—the latter is close shaven and the neck bare. He appears habited in the *tunica talaris*, lay tunic or coat, with the mantle over, open in front, with the *caputium* or hood about the neck. The sleeves of the tunic are close-fitting. The hands, conjoined horizontally on the breast, are represented holding a crucifix. The lady’s head-attire consists of a close-fitting cap and wimple, the latter covering the sides of the face and coming under the chin. Her body habiliments consist of a gown with somewhat close-fitting sleeves, and a mantle over, open in front, and fastened by a cordon crossing the breast. The hands are conjoined horizontally on the breast. Between the heads of these two effigies, the rood or crucifix is represented, with the figures on either side of St. Mary and St. John, and in a kind of pediment which forms the head of the slab, rudely sculptured in relief, are the figures of angels with thuribles. Round the edge of this monument is an inscription in Longobardic letters. The date of this monument may, I think, be ascribed to *circa* A.D. 1350.

“Lying loose in the nave [now near the font], but removed from its original position, is the recumbent effigy, carved in wood, of a lady *temp* Mary, *circa* 1555. The head is represented as reposing on a square double cushion—on the head is worn the close-fitting cap of the period, with the partlet on the top, and round the neck is a ruff. Over the petticoat is a double chain, worn over the shoulders, and in front of the breast; the petticoat is stiff in front, and hanging by a chain reaching nearly to the feet is a pendant ornament, pomauder or perfume box. Over the petticoat is worn an open robe or gown tied round about the waist with a scarf; this gown is in numerous folds, and is open in front up to the shoulders. The middle portions of the arms are gone, about the wrists are ruffs, and the hands are conjoined in prayer. The face is somewhat mutilated. This is the latest instance I have met with of a recumbent sepulchral effigy carved in wood. (See reference elsewhere to this part of the Games monument.)

“In the North aisle of the choir [now in Havard Chapel], on a high tomb, is the recumbent sepulchral effigy in marble and alabaster of Sir David Williams, one of the Justices of Pleas, who died A.D. 1613, with the recumbent effigy of his wife Margaret Vaughan, lying on the right side. He is represented in his Judge’s robes—a scarlet coloured gown tied about the waist with a scarf of the same colour. The sleeves of the gown are cuffed with ermine. Over the gown is worn the ermined mantle, open in front, with a plain tippet over the breast, and a casting hood of ermine about the neck, round the which is a nebule shaped ruff. On the head is worn the square judicial cap, the face has the moustache and beard, and the hands are conjoined vertically on the breast; the head reposes on a tasselled cushion. His lady has the partlet head-dress, wears a ruff round the neck, and is habited in a gown with ample skirt, over which is worn a rich stomacher buttoned in front of the breast. The sleeves are full at the shoulders and cuffed at the wrists with small ruffs. The soles of the shoes are represented unusually small, the hands are conjoined vertically on the breast, and the head reposes on a tasselled cushion; a chain is worn over the shoulders, and hangs down in front of the neck.” This monument is not coloured now.

The peculiar slab near the altar has already been described.

#### THE MONUMENTS IN 1908.

It is well-nigh impossible to give a list of the sepulchral monuments in so large a building, without omissions or duplications; the floor is in places covered with matting and heavy seating, but nevertheless the account here given of the memorials to the dead, as contained in the church at the present day, may be considered fairly accurate, for the writer of them spent several weeks in pursuit of his object. It will be noticed that many of the stones are not noticed by Jones, probably these were in the churchyard in his time. Some of those mentioned by him have been removed from the places in which he found them, and many have altogether disappeared.



The magnificent East window, consisting of five graduated lancets, was placed there "In memory of officers and soldiers of the 24th Regiment who fell in South Africa" at Isandlwana on January 22nd, 1879—"and the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people" (2nd Samuel, 19—2). Above the choir stalls, on the organ side, is a small three light window of stained glass, "dedicated to the honour of God's house in affectionate remembrance of George James Williamson, of Ffynonnau, by his widow Elizabeth Mary Williamson." There is over the communion table a very beautiful oil painting which was "Presented by E. Cambridge Phillips, of Brecon, in loving memory of his father Jacob Phillips of Chippenham, Wilts, gent., who died the 8th day of October, 1884." To the right, let into the floor, is the ancient sepulchral stone illustrative of the Crucifixion.

Mr. Westwood's description of this stone, which is illustrated in his work *Lapidarium Walliae*, is as follows: "The stone, which is very much defaced, contains a representation of the Crucifixion (the cross being omitted), with two angels at the upper angles of the stone censing the head of the Saviour; at his sides are figures of the Virgin and St. John, and beneath them are four figures, kneeling, being the persons to whose memory the stone was inscribed." He describes this kind of sculpture as being one of extreme rarity.

Within the altar rails is a very large and handsome brass, with this inscription: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of the non-commissioned officers and men of the 24th Regiment who fell in action during the Zulu Campaign of 1879, this memorial is erected by all ranks, past and present, of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 24th Regiment, now South Wales Borderers. They gave their lives for Queen and country. Jesu mercy." Inscribed on the brass are the names of 409 soldiers of the 1st Battalion and 178 of the 2nd Battalion.

On the same side of the choir are brass tablets to the memory of many other military men. One, "To the Glory of God and in memory of Sergt. H. Hook, V.C., 24th Regiment, who died 12th March, 1905. This brass is erected by officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of his regiment in memory of his distinguished gallantry at the defence of Rorke's Drift, 22nd January, 1879, for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross." Another, "In memory of Lieut.-Colonel John James Harvey, D.S.O., 24th Regiment, The S.W.B., died at Raniknet, 27th July, 1890, aged 46 years. Served with the 2nd 24th Regiment in South African War 1878-79, including the Kaffir and Zulu Campaigns, also with distinction in the Burmah Expedition, 1885-89. Erected by the officers of both battalions." Near by is yet another, "In memory of Major Granville Bromhead, V.C., 24th Regiment the South Wales Borderers, died at Allahabad 9th February, 1891, aged 46 years. Commanded B Company 2nd 24th Regiment at the defence of Rorke's Drift 22nd-23rd January, 1879. Erected by officers of both battalions." And also, "In affectionate memory of Capt. H. E. Every, 24th Regiment, who died at Eccington Hall, Derbyshire, on December 1st, 1892, aged 32 years. Erected by officers who served with him in the 1st Battalion from 1881 to 1892." And likewise, "In memory of Captain Percy Tatham Armitage, 24th Regiment the South Wales Borderers, died at Brecon 10th September, 1893. Served with the 24th Regiment in South Africa Zulu Campaign 1879 and in Burmah 1887-89. Erected by officers of the Regiment." This officer, who became adjutant of Volunteers, died suddenly at Tregunter, near Talgarth, and lies buried in the Brecon Cemetery, where there is a monument to his memory.

Near to these smaller brasses is another large one, with this inscription—"To the Glory of God and in memory of 22 officers and 655 non-commissioned officers and men of the 24th Regiment, who fell in action or died of wounds or disease in the South African Campaigns of 1877-78-79, the East window is erected by their comrades past and present." The officers' names inscribed on this brass are as follows:—1st Battalion: Lieut.-Col. H. B. Pulliene, Captains W. Degacher, W. E. Mostyn, G. V. Wardell, R. Younghusband, Lieutenants F. P. Porteous, C. W. Cavaye, N. J. A. Coghill, E. O. Anstey, J. P. Daly, G. F. J. Hodson, C. J. Atkinson, Second Lieutenant E. H. Dyson, Lieut.-Adjutant T. Melvill, Paymaster F. F. White, Quartermaster J. Pullen; and 429 non-commissioned officers and men. 2nd Battalion: Lieutenants C. D. A. Pope, H. J. Dyer, F. Godwin Austen, Sub-Lieutenant T. L. G. Griffith, Second Lieutenant R. W. Franklin, Quartermaster E. Bloomfield, and 226 non-commissioned officers and men. Twenty-one officers and 590 non-commissioned officers and men were killed in action on the field of Isandhlwana, or in the defence of Rorke's Drift, and on this brass are inscribed the names of Melvill and Coghill, the two young officers who died in a brave attempt to save the colours.

There is also a brass here "In memory of Lieut.-General Richard Thomas Glyn, C.B., C.M.G., Colonel the South Wales Borderers, 24th Regiment, born December 23rd, 1831, died November 21st, 1900. Served with the 24th Regiment 27 years, taking part in the Indian Mutiny, 1857-1858, the Kaffir war 1877-1878, and the Zulu war 1879." This General was stationed at Brecon for some years in command, and one of his daughters married C. H. de Winton, Esq., J.P., of Maesderwen. Another



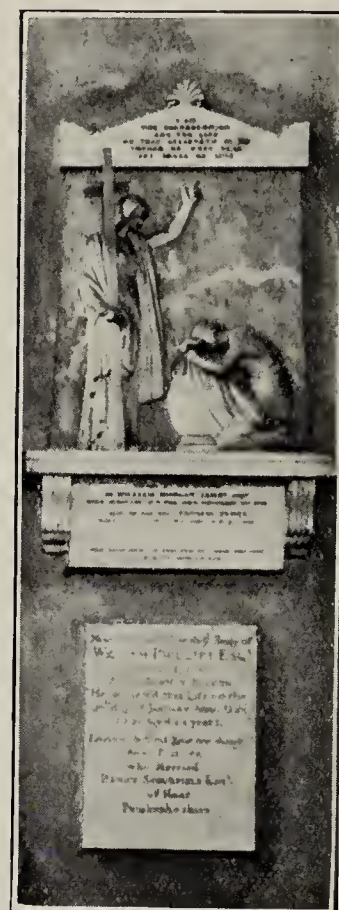




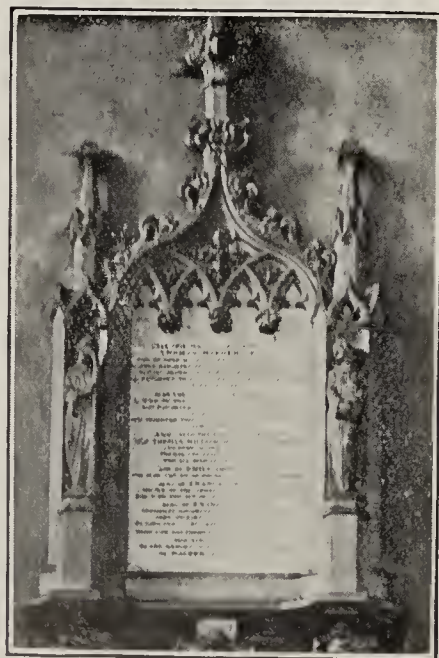
PENYOYRE WATKINS MONUMENTS.



MONUMENT BY  
FLAXMAN.



THE MAYBERY MONUMENT.



JUDGE WILLIAMS OF GWERNYFED.



MONUMENTS IN PRIORY CHURCH, 1908

(From Photographs by Mr. Reg. Wilkinson, Brecon).



brass erected by his brother officers as a token of esteem, is "Sacred to the memory of Herbert Wykeham Parker, 1st Batt. S.W.B., 24th Regt., born 11th May, 1872, died 18th March, 1899, from the effects of wounds received in action whilst employed on special service with the Niger Company." Near this is one "In memory of 2nd Lieut. J. Douglas Morgan-Thomas, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who died 2nd December, 1889, aged 21 years. Erected by his brother officers." This young officer was a son of the late J. Morgan-Thomas, Esq., J.P., of Glyngarth, Brecon, and a brother of the late Capt. Morgan-Thomas, Chief Constable of Breconshire; he lies buried with other members of his family in the Brecon Cemetery.

When it became necessary to send out reinforcements to South Africa in the war with the Boers, many Militia and Volunteer Regiments volunteered for service. The 3rd Batt. South Wales Borderers (Brecknock and Radnor Militia) was sent out, and also a detachment of Volunteers. The two brasses here noted were erected in memory of officers and men of those regiments who fell in this war. The first is: "To the Glory of God and in memory of the undermentioned officers and men of the 3rd Batt. S. Wales Borderers who were killed in action or died on active service during the South African Campaign, 1900-01-02." Then follow the names of three officers, eight non-commissioned officers, and 26 privates. The tablet was erected by the officers of the Battalion. The second one is: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of Privates S. Jones, E. Powell, W. E. Jones, and A. J. Morgan, 1st Vol. Batt. S.W.B., who died in South Africa, 1900-1901. Together with 33 other members of the Battalion, the above mentioned proceeded on active service and shared in the hardships and perils of the late Campaign. Erected by past and present members of the Battalion."

In the north transept is a very handsome stained glass window, and to commemorate its erection a brass has been placed, with the other military tablets, in the choir, bearing this inscription. "The window in the north transept of this church was erected by their comrades in the 1st and 2nd Battalions, to the Glory of God and in memory of the following officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of the 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers (24th Regt.), killed in action and died of wounds or disease in the South African War, 1889 to 1902. Capt. H. de Moody, Lieut. W. A. G. Williams, D.S.O., Lieut. A. J. Forbes, D.S.O." And then follow the names of 136 non-commissioned officers and men. Beneath the window there is inscribed: "In memory of those who gave their lives for their country in the S. African War, 1889-1902."

On the south side of the choir there are several memorial brasses. One, "In memory of Lieut.-Col. Hunter Ward, 48th Regt., who died at Brecon, Dec. 26, 1852. Taken away from the evil to come." Beneath it, one, "To the Glory of God and to the beloved memory of Thomas Frederick Thomas, Commander Royal Navy, fourth son of the late David Thomas, of Watton House, Brecon. Born Jan. 18, 1849; died Oct. 7, 1902." Another, "In memory of Second Lieut. E. W. Chapman, 1st Batt. 24th Regt., who died at Karachi from enteric fever, on the 18 Dec., 1905, this tablet is erected as a token of esteem by his brother officers of the 1st Battalion." Also, "In memory of Henry James Degacher, Major-General in H.M. Service, Companion of the Bath, Colonel of the 24th Regt. (South Wales Borderers). Born 24 Feb., 1835, died 25 Nov., 1902. Served in the Crimea 1854, Kaffir War 1877-1878, Zulu War 1879." There is also one, erected by his brother officers, "In memory of Major General Sir William Penn Symons, K.C.B., served in the 24th Regt. (the S.W.B.) from 6th March, 1863, until 21st March, 1893. Mortally wounded at Talana Hill, South Africa, on 20th Oct., when commanding the 4th Division, and died at Dundee, Natal, on 25th Oct., 1899." And also one, "In memory of Basil George Bagot Paton, lieut. 1st Batt. 24th Regt. The S.W.B., younger son of Major General George Paton, C.M.G., Colonel of the regiment, who died at Tullundur, Punjab, 29 Nov., 1902, aged 26 years. Erected as a mark of affection by his brother officers." Another, "In memory of Major Alfred Granworth Worlledge, A.P.D. (late 24th Regt. The S.W.B.), who died on Christmas Eve, 1903, aged 46 years. Served with the 24th Regt. in South Africa, Zulu Campaign, 1879. Erected by his brother officers who served with him in the 24th Regt." This gentleman married into the Williams of Abercamlais family, and is buried, together with his wife, in the Penpont churchyard. Near to the organ and beneath the Williamson window is a brass tablet, "To the Glory of God. In loving memory of Herbert Williams, for thirty-two years vicar of Brecon. Born 15th Feb., 1836, died 19th Nov., 1896." The great west window was erected to the memory of this incumbent, who was a son of Dean Williams of Llandaff, and a brother of the Rev. Preb. Garnons Williams, of Abercamlais. On a brass tablet beneath the window a brass has this inscription.—"This memorial window was erected by the parishioners and friends of the late vicar, Prebendary Herbert Williams, as a lasting token of the love and esteem with which he was regarded by them. 18th September, 1898." Nearly every brass erected here is the work of Mr. George Hay, the sculptor, of Brecon.

#### THE PENOYRE WATKINS MONUMENTS.

In the north transept are the Pennoyre Watkinses monuments. They are massive and handsome



in design, the figures being carved in white marble. The inscriptions read: "In memory of Mary, wife of Pennoyre Watkins, of this town, and Broadway, in the County of Carmarthen, Esquire. She was the youngest daughter of David Lloyd of Rhosferrig, in this county, Esquire. . . . She died lamented by all who knew her December 27, 1762, in the 34th year of her age. In memory also of John Lloyd of Rhosferrig and Aberannell, in this county, Esquire. A man whose integrity was perfect, whose manners were unoffending. The esteem and respect of his country he preserved to the great age of 92. He died June 30, 1812. This tribute of affection for a dear mother long lost yet now regretted, and of grateful respect for a liberal relative is raised by George Price Watkins, Esq., 1813."

Beneath this is another with life-size female figures carved in marble, and "This monument is erected by his nephew and executor, Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, Esq., M.P., to the memory of George Price Watkins, of Rhosferrig, in this county, and Broadway, in the county of Carmarthen, Esquire, who was born July 4, 1752 (old style), and died May 23rd, 1843, at the advanced age of 91. As a gentleman and a scholar he justly merited the admiration of his friends and acquaintances, and his munificence to his native town of Brecon, as founder of the Infirmary, and donor of the annual interest of £1,000 among its distressed inhabitants, will ever ensure their gratitude. Also to the memory of Elizabeth, his wife, second daughter of the Rev. Thomas Bacon, of Maryland, universally admired for her piety, amiable disposition, and kindly feeling."

Near by is another, which is "Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Watkins, A.M., F.R.S., F.S.A., late of Pennoyre, in this county, who died Oct. 15, 1829, aged 68. His remains were interred in the family vault at Llandefaelog. The integrity and high character which ornamented the whole of his career commanded affection and respect from all. Anxious for the welfare of his family, his unremitting attention was directed to the moral education of his children, when he endeavoured to impress on their minds those religious principles which can alone assuage the sorrows of the mind on the bed of sickness, or at the awful hour of trial. The sound sense that formed one of his strongest characteristics was only equalled by his chaste and elegant classical attainments. As a magistrate the justice and strict impartiality that invariably actuated his conduct leave a lustre to his name that time can only obliterate. Oh, Reader! if thou hast experienced such a loss, imagine the feelings of a son! Also to the memory of Penaur, eldest son of the above mentioned, who at the early age of 16 was snatched from his agonised parents by a watery grave. His transcendent abilities were only surpassed by a generous, affectionate, and noble disposition. And lastly, to commemorate the equally premature death of Julia Sarah, the youngest daughter. Amiable, lovely, and most dear to her family, this pure and spotless spirit has fled to her heavenly father. She died September 8, 1818, aged 12 years." This monument is surmounted by an urn, and two child-angels are above the recumbent effigy of a man. Beneath the family arms is the motto, "Pen aur a chalon wir."

To the right of this monument is one "Sacred to the memory of Susanna Eleonora, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Watkins of Pennoyre, in this county, and daughter of the late Richard Vaughan, of Golden Grove, in the county of Carmarthen, Esquire, born Dec. 21, 1768, died Dec. 25, 1847. This monument is erected by her son and daughters, in commemoration of that humble piety, and the many amiable qualities which endeared her to friends of all ranks. Her children here affectionately bear testimony to her generosity of heart, ever accessible to those in distress, and to an amiable disposition, justly appreciated by all who knew her."

Near by is a monument having the head of a female carved thereon in marble, and inscribed, "Sacred to the memory of Eliza Luther Watkins, wife of Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, lord Lieutenant for Brecknockshire, and M.P. for the Borough, and widow of Brigadier General S. Hughes, C.B., born May 21, 1815, died January 25, 1855." And also another, "Sacred to the memory of Sophia Louisa Henrietta, the beloved wife of Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, M.P., of Pennoyre, in the county of Brecknock, who died at Bath at the early age of 49, on the 27th May, 1851. Her amiable disposition, suavity of manners, and kindly feeling, won the love and admiration of all, while the poor will long remember her unremitting care and attention with a lively sense of gratitude. Truly may it be recorded of this spotless spirit, that she 'loved mercy and walked humbly with her God.' This last tribute of love and affection is erected by her sorrowing husband." This Col. Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, M.P., was the last of his race to own and live at Pennoyre; the estate became heavily charged during his time, and he was reduced to comparative poverty. He died at the old Bear Hotel (now no longer in existence as such), and was buried with every demonstration of respect, at the family vault at Llandefaelog, in the year 1865.

#### THE PENOYRE WATKINS CHARITIES.

Near to the doorway of the north transept is a marble slab containing the following inscription, now somewhat difficult to read: "George Price Watkins, a native of this town, now of Rhosferrig, in



this county, and Broadway, in the county of Carmarthen, Esquire, eldest son of Pennoyre Watkins, Esquire, transferred to the Rev. T. Watkins, Elizabeth Rice of Brecon, and the Vicar of Brecon, for the time being as trustees, one thousand pounds three per cent. Imperial Stock, and by a deed dated the 9th May, 1814, enrolled in the Court of Chancery. The same was settled upon trust to distribute the dividends thereof annually, or as often as they thought it right, amongst such decayed discreet inhabitants not receiving parochial relief, and who regularly attended the parish churches of St. Mary or St. John the Evangelist, as the trustees in their discretion should think the most deserving of their assistance. The security having been changed, the proceeds were invested in the purchase of a farm and lands in the parish of Crickadarn, in the county, called Bailie, and which is now in the occupation of William Price, to be applied to the same purposes as the dividends were. The said Rev. T. Watkins and Elizabeth Rice having departed this life in the year 1829, J. L. V. Watkins, of Pennoyre, in this county, Esquire, and Walter Rice, of Llwynybrain, in the said county, Esquire, were appointed trustees by the said George Price Watkins in the year 1830."

## SIR JOHN MEREDITH AND OTHER MONUMENTS.

Over the doorway is a large memorial slab bearing the following inscription: "In memory of Sir John Meredith, late of this town, who died the 6th of March, 1780, aged 66 years. He served the office of H.S. for Breconshire in the year 1762, and for Radnorshire in 1780, of which county he was a native, being descended from an ancient Welsh family. He was a man of vigorous intellect and sound integrity, warm in his attachments, upright and honourable in his principles, firm and inflexible through good report and evil report in adherence to the conduct and opinions which his judgment and his conscience approved. As a husband, a relation, a friend, a generous benefactor, above all as a Christian, he uniformly displayed the influence of those principles which never fail to command respect and acquire esteem. This marble also commemorates Johannah, his beloved and amiable wife, who expired the 28th February, 1780, nine days previous to the death of her esteemed husband, a circumstance rendered remarkable from a mutual wish long entertained by them of being permitted to depart this life nearly at the same time. Oeddynt Gariallus ac anwyl yn eu bywyd ac yn eu marwolaeth ni wahanwyd hwynt. This tribute of affection and grateful respect to the memory of a beloved uncle is erected by Jane, the wife of Richard Davys, of Noyadd, in the County of Carmarthen, Esquire, late Jane Meredith."

Near by is a small slab, "Sacred to the memory of Mrs Mary Williams, who departed this life 15th November, 1794 (?), aged 84. She was the daughter of David Williams, Esq., of this town, by Anne, daughter of Thomas Bulcott, Esq., and sister of the late Rev. David Williams." And also one, "Sacred to the memory of Nicholas William Lewis, Esq., he married Frances, relict of Thomas Young, Esq., of Bush Hill, Herts, and died without issue the 13 Dec., 1819, aged 77. Also of the said Frances, who entered into heavenly rest May 21, 1822, aged 78. Her mortal remains are gathered to those of her loved daughter, Mary Ann Clifton. She was an exemplary wife, a tender mother, a generous friend, a Christian indeed. This tablet was erected by her daughter Frances, relict of the late Rev. Thomas James, of Brecon, and by a son-in-law, to whom she was a mother."

In the same transept: "Near this place lie the bodies of Henry Williams, late of this town, gent., and his wife Ioanna. Ioanna was richly adorned with those virtues that form the good wife, the mother, and the mistress of a family. Her works of charity, which she daily exercised and promoted, made her justly esteemed a good woman, and to crown all, her zeal and piety in serving God, both in the church and the closet, compleated in her the good Christian. She died March 14, 1731, aged 66. Henry was blest with the richest gifts of nature, improved by uncommon industry, application, and experience. He was a watchful guardian of the true interest of the town and its inhabitants, and gave many expressive proofs of a generous and public heart. He was skilful and active in business, cheerful and instructive in conversation, and in all the concerns of his family, his friends, and his country, a most useful man. He died Oct. 25, 1737, aged 84." Beneath this, and carved on the same stone, is the following: "And of Catherine, his wife, who departed this life the 30th May, 1752, aged 46; and of Joan his wife who departed this life the 6th of April, 1752, aged 55"—a similarity of dates somewhat confusing.

A brass tablet contains this inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Lewis Watkins, Esq., of this town, surgeon, and one of the coroners of the county, youngest son of Thomas Watkins, Esq., of Lloegyr Fawr, who died Aug. 16, 1838, aged 49 years. A man of the highest honour and liberality of sentiment, of the strictest integrity, and most approved ability in his profession; of general knowledge and distinguished for his taste in the polite arts. His widow Margaret Anne, interred in the Cemetery, died Oct. 1, 1870, aged 93 years." Near this is a small tablet, "Sacred to the memory of David, son of John and Jane Thomas, of Berkeley Place, Brecon, who died at Hurriah, in the



East Indies, on the 14th day of January, 1840, aged 25 years." This is one of the family of Thomas, the Breconshire sculptor.

Near to the Pennoyre monuments is a brass tablet to the memory of "James Williams, F.R.C.S., Esq., V.D., J.P., and D.L., County Brecknock, Coroner for the same county 1853—1889, Mayor of Brecknock 1860 and 1887 (Jubilee year). Born 6th Dec., 1818, died 12th Nov., 1906. Interred at the Brecknock Cemetery. A man of many parts, who loved Brecknock and promoted the welfare of those who dwelt therein."

There are many sepulchral stones upon the floor of the north transept, but some of them it is quite impossible to decipher. There is one to Benjamin Tanner, *ironmaster*, and his wife Ann; she died Oct. 3, 1742, and he followed on Dec. 18, 1758, aged 84. Also to David Vaughan, bailief and towne cleark of this town of Brecknock, the son of Richard Vaughan, of Llanywern, gent., lynally descended of Sir Roger Vaughan of Bredwarden, knight; he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Ffrancis Powell, of Crickhowell, gent., and died the 15th day of 7ber, Ano Dn. 1689. This stone has carved thereon the arms of the family. Another to Walter Jeffreys, merchant; and F.R.S. of London, died the 27 January, 1746, aged 63; William Jeffreys, of Brecon, Bachelor of Physick, who died April 11, 1722, aged 26; also the sons of Evan Jeffreys; and also to Walter Jeffreys, of this town, Esq., who died May 11, 1794, aged 96. Near by is a stone to Elizabeth, wife of John Robinson, of Brecon, the daughter of Lewis Powell, of the same town; "She lived in the fear of the Lord, and died at peace with all, the 17th day of February, Ano. Dom. 1688. Her age is 78." Also, "Here lyeth the body of Bridget, the wife of John Harries, of this town of Brecon, carrier; she departed of this life the 4th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1694."

A piece of marble set into an older stone records that "Mary Jane Williams died 13th May, 1843, aged 24 years," and near by "Peter Jones, of this town, merchant," is inscribed. Near to the wall, "Here lyeth the bodies of three children of Howell Gwyn, of Abercrave"; a fuller memorial has already been recorded. A large stone much defaced alludes to "Watkin Thomas Williams, who married Thomas ap Ievan John Goch: they had issve Watkin, Llewelin, Elisabeth, Elinor, Ioan, and Gwenllian; she died the XIII. of Ianvarii, ano. dni. 1627." Near it, one to Lewis Watkins, Esq., died 16 Aug., 1838, aged 48. There is also a defaced stone to the memory of a former bailiff of the town, and the date looks like 1598. Close to this it is recited that Lewis Havard, of Blaensenny, Devynock, attorney-at-law, married Mary, daughter of William Aubrey, and died the 3rd of December, 1723, aged 43. "Elizabeth, the wife of David Price, of this town, mercer," died 1705; and a defaced stone near this records that "—gha— —nes, of this town, *fiscer*, who married Margaret, the daughter of John Watkins, of Brecon," and had issue, died 6th December, 1694. Also another to "Jeffrey Jones, taylor, who married Jane, the daughter of William ———, died 1618." "Lewis Price, of the parish of Battle, farmer, died May 17, 1798, aged 69; Elizabeth, his wife, died 1813, aged 94; also to William Price, *glasscutter*, son of William Price, of Mount Pleasant," and other members of the family. A stone remains to "Thomas Mitchell, gent., late Bailiff of this town, who died January 10, 1744, aged 66; he married Hester, one of the daughters of David Williams, of Battle, gent., by whom she left issue 1 son named Henry. Also the body of Henry Mitchell, Esq., who died June 4, 1782, aged 77; he was the only son and heir of the above named Thomas and Esther, and intermarried with Margaret, the eldest daughter of Thomas Penry, of Llwyncynteivin, in this county, Esquire, ———and left issue one son; also the body of the said Margaret, who died September, 1788, aged 84. There is also the old defaced stones to the family of Powell, who married a Perrott, of Llanfihangel Talyllyn—date 1690; and also to a daughter of Roger Williams, corvizer, who died 1766; a David Thomas, born 1694; a daughter of Thomas David, 1675.

#### THE CARVED OAK BOSSES.

Before leaving this part of the building it may be noted that on the screen dividing this transept from the Havard Chapel are placed some carved oak bosses which were originally on the ancient ceiling of the chancel. Two of these were bought at a sale in the district by the Misses Philip Morgan, of Buckingham Place, and restored by them to the church, and others were bought and given by the churchwarden, Mr. Aneurin George. These bosses, of which a few of the original set are still missing, were fixed at the intersection of the beams over the chancel. Above the altar were the vine leaves (fig. 1) representing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Then followed (fig. 2) the triple leaves representing the Trinity, with their three leaves in one,—a leaf which seems to have been adopted by the Benedictine monks. The Franciscan monks seem to have adopted, to represent the Trinity, the fleur-de-lis, and of this a good specimen is to be seen in the April, 1893, number of the *Archaeologia Cambrensis*—seal of the Abbey of the Austin Canons of Sonnebecca in the diocese of Ypres, the Virgin Mary holding in her right hand the fleur-de-lis, meaning the Three Persons in one Godhead; on her head is the crown of Virginity. The sepulchral monuments of the fifteenth and



sixteenth centuries, were greatly adorned by the fluer-de-lis on each arm of the cross, which gave such a beautiful meaning to the Atonement. Fig. 3 represents Saints, "intercessors at the throne of God." We are informed that there was one boss different from the rest with a figure upon it, but whether it represented the patron saint, St. John, or an angel, cannot now be determined. The fourth figure is the white rose, representing the House of York; and fig. 5 are the monk-leaves, telling us of their handiwork. The leaf is round in the centre, and void of any cutting except the veins, and they resemble the shaven head of a monk, the toothings of the leaves resembling the hair. Fig. 6 represents the sun (but was not placed in the chancel, fearing its misconstruction); it is the symbol of sovereignty. Tertullian, in his treatise *De Corona Militis*, states that "the Roman Emperors and Kings wore their crowns in form of the sun's beams, because they were as suns and flaming lights, for the whole world were led by their examples: so that suns, moons, and stars, signify in general men born to public good, and of exemplary lives among the worthy bearers." Celestial charges also denote dignity, glory, and grandeur: how appropriate to such a grand building as the Priory Church. The sun boss was placed at a distance from the other bosses, for it was fixed in the roof over the west window in the nave.

## IN THE HAVARD CHAPEL.

In the Havard or Vear's Chapel, where services were frequently held during the restoration periods, the floors and walls are thickly covered with monuments. Lying flat in the north east corner is a slab containing the recumbent effigies of Walter Aubrey, of Aberynrig, and his wife (date 1312), and in the centre of the chapel are memorials to descendants of this family, viz., Jane, daughter of Richard Gough Aubery, Esq., of Yniscedwyn, in this county, and daughter of Rev. Wm. Wynter, late rector of Penderin, who died at Brecon on Sunday, 20th of October, 1811, aged 51; also Thomas Williams, Esq., of Coity mawr, in this county, and of Glamorgan Street in this town, who departed this life 25th July, 1808, aged 62; also William Williams, Esq. (who died 16 July, 1809, aged 26), third son of the above named Thomas Williams, by Mary, his wife, daughter of Howell Jones, Esq., of Coity mawr; and another, to Walter Williams, Esq., of Coity Mawr, the eldest son of Thomas and Mary Williams, who died 19 Nov., 1813, aged 38. There is also a stone to George Awbrey, corvizer, who died October 6, 1778, aged 74. This chapel also contain the Williams of Gwernyfed effigies, brought from the chancel at its restoration, but the canopy is no longer to be seen. Adjoining this monument is one erected by the late Colonel Thomas Wood, M.P., his nephew, to the memory of Edward Williams, Esq., for some time Major Commandant of the Brecknock Militia, and son of Sir Edward Williams, Bart.; he was born November, 1757, and died at Brecknock, December, 1799.

## AN ORIENTAL SCHOLAR.

Immediately over the effigies, is a large tablet inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of David Price, Esq., M.R.A.S., F.R.L.S., who departed this life on the 16th December, 1835, age 73 years. He was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the county of Brecon, Major in the Service of the Hon. East India Company, and Judge Advocate General of the Bombay Army. He was an elegant and accomplished Oriental scholar, to which various publications bear ample testimony. The unassuming simplicity of his general deportment was not less admirable than the high moral courage which on every occasion marked his manly conduct. A stranger to every selfish principle, his universal benevolence and uncompromising integrity justly secured him the esteem and confidence of all classes of society, and his death was deeply and extensively lamented. In his generous breast, next to the pure love of virtue, glowed the ardent love of his country, in whose sacred cause he bravely fought and freely bled. After twenty-five years faithfully and zealously devoted to the public interest, he returned from India, alas! the wreck of what he left his home, and dedicated the peaceful evening of his days to the pursuits of literature, to the exemplary discharge of every relative and every social duty, but mainly to the contemplation and to the practice of that genuine piety, that patient submission to suffering, so pre-eminently exemplified in the perfect pattern of obedience left to us by our Blessed Redeemer, on whose infinite Atonement he solely rested his humble hope of eternal salvation. In tribute of devoted affection to a beloved husband, this imperfect memorial is recorded by his sorrowing widow." Jane Charlotte Price, widow of the above, died 1841, aged 59. On the floor, in front of the Gwernyfed monuments, is a slab, on which is the following:—"Beneath this sacred stone repose, in humble hope of a blessed resurrection, the hallowed remains of Major David Price, late of this town; he departed this life respected and regretted on the 16th day of December, 1835, aged 73 years."

## THE COKE MEMORIALS.

Another feature in this chapel are the memorials to the Coke family. On the wall is a long black marble, upon which is inscribed the following: "Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Coke, LL.D., of Jesus College, Oxford, who was born in this borough the 9th of September, 1747, was one



of the Common Councilmen, and in 1770 filled the office of Chief Magistrate with honour to himself and equal benefit to the public. After a zealous ministry of several years in the Established Church, in 1776 he united himself to the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., and preached the Gospel with success in various parts of Great Britain and Ireland. To him were confided the Foreign Missions of the Methodists, in support of which he expended a large portion of his fortune, and with unremitted vigour encountered toils and self-denial which the Christian world beheld with admiration. By the blessing of God on the Missions to the Negroes in the West Indies, commenced by him in 1786, a foundation was laid for the civilisation of that degraded class of human beings. To the negro race upon their native continent, as well as in the Island of their bondage, his compassions were extended, and he set the first example in modern days of efforts for the spiritual emancipation of Western Africa. After crossing the Atlantic eighteen times on his visits to the American Continent and the West Indian Colonies in the service of the Souls of Men, his unwearied spirit was stirred within him to take a part in the noble enterprise of evangelising British India. He sailed in 1813 as the leader of the first Wesleyan Missionaries to Ceylon, but the burning and shining light which in the Western world had guided thousands into the paths of peace, had now fulfilled its course, and suddenly, yet rich in evening splendour, sunk into the shadows of mortality. He died on the voyage the 3rd day of May, 1814, and his remains were committed to the great deep until the sea shall give up her dead. His days were past, but his purposes were not broken off, for the Mission which he had planned was made abundantly to prosper. The same love of Christ which made him long the advocate and the pattern of exertion in behalf of foreign lands, constrained him also to works of pious charity at home in many neglected districts of England, Wales, and Ireland. The means of grace were carried by his private bounty, or through his public influence, and his praise is in the Gospel throughout all the Churches. This monument A.D. 1829, at the expense of the ministers and missionaries with whom he was united, as a record of their respectful gratitude for the distinguished services, the eminent usefulness, and the long-trying and faithful attachment of their now glorified friend, by their appointment, and under the direction of the Rev. T. Roberts, M.A., and the Rev. J. Buckley." There was a much more pretentious monument in this church to the memory of this remarkable man, which was given to the Wesleyans of Brecon by the Church authorities at the time when the chancel was about to undergo restoration, and this black tablet seems to have been put up instead. The original tablet is now to be seen in the Lion Street Wesleyan Chapel, behind the pulpit there.

On the floor of the Vicar's Chapel, close to the screen, we read, "Here lie the remains of Mrs Penelope Fielding Coke, wife of the Rev. Thomas Coke, Doctor of Civil Laws, of the University of Oxford, and a Common Councilman of the Borough. She departed this life on the 25th January, —, nearly forty-nine —. She was one of the best of wives, and one of the holiest of saints. Her monument, which has been set up in this church by her affectionate husband, will give to the pious reader many pleasing and profitable traits of the character of this excellent woman." (This seems to indicate the erection of a monument within the church which is not now to be seen.) "Also of Mrs. Ann Coke, second wife of the Rev. Dr. Coke, daughter of Joseph Loxdale, Esq., died on the 5th day of December, 1812, in the 57th year of her age. She was a woman of eminent piety." Alongside this stone is one to Bartholomew Coke, apothecary and common councilman of the Borough, who died 7 May, 1775, also of some of his children and his wife Anne, who died 17 May, 1783.

Around the walls are memorials to Hester Elliston of London, spinster, who died Nov. 1737, and Elizabeth her sister, died 9 May, 1757; Henry, son of Rev. Jas. Olive, minister of St. Paul's, Bristol, died July, 1854, aged 25; David Williams, of Newton, St. David's, died 6 June, 1825, aged 77; Susanna his wife, died 18 Sept., 1844, aged 44; Philip, eldest son, died 3 Nov., 1828, aged 43; Charles, youngest son, died 27 Jan., 1820, aged 18; John, the second son, died 17 July, 1845, aged 58; David, third son, died 23rd April, 1854, aged 66. Gabriel Powell, of Pennant, within this borough, gent., for several years Steward under two successive Dukes of Beaufort of the Lordship Royal of Gower, in the county of Glamorgan, sometime bailiff of this Corporation, and a strenuous assertor of the rights of inhabiting burgesses against foreigners, who died ye 5th of Nov., 1735, in ye 60th year of his age. Above this are monuments to the Powells of Castle Madoc, already noticed, and there are other memorials to the same family elsewhere in the chapel. A tablet to the Maunds is inscribed to the memory of Andrew Maund, architect, died 24 March, 1803, aged 81; Jane, youngest son of Andrew and Elizabeth Maund, died 31 Jan., 1812, aged 37; Elizabeth, wife of Andrew Maund, died 12 Nov., 1816, aged 83; John Atkinson, son of John Maund, Esq., of Tymawr, Llanelly, died Jany. in 1831; Elizabeth Maund, spinster, died April, 1843, aged 82; Howell Maund, Esq., died Nov. 21, 1837, aged 70, and Anne, his wife, died 1849, aged 87; John Maund, of Tymawr, Llanelly, Esquire, died 1850, aged 79; John Maund, Esq., D.L., J.P., late of Tymawr, son of the last named, died at Boulogne, S.M., France, May, 1876. In the churchyard are records of the burial of the other members of the family, which is no longer represented in Brecon.



There are memorials to John and James Sims; John Lazenby, Governor the County Prison, and his wife; Ann, wife of William Bridgwater, of Penkelly Castle, in this county, gent., died Nov. 24, 1797, aged 32; of William Bridgwater, gent., died July, 1803, aged 34; and of Thomas Bridgwater, of this town, gent., late Captain in Royal Monmouth and Brecknock Militia, and formerly of H.M. 36th Regt. of Foot, who died Jan 15, 1848, aged 74. Eleonora, wife of the Ven. Richard Davies, Archdeacon of Brecon, died 29 April, 1855, aged 81. To the Powells, of Cwmelyn, Devynock, viz., Esther, wife of William Davies, of Browynlllys Castle, in this county, Esquire, and only daughter of Hugh Powell, late of Cwmelyn, Esq.; also Sarah his wife, died July 1813, aged 77; and Sarah, relict of Hugh Powell, late of Cwmelyn, Esquire, who died 13 May, 1787. Memorials are visible to the family of Thomas, timber merchants and subsequently architects (1795—1829); to James Gibbon, Esq., of Bedford, physician, obit July, 1837; Dorothy, wife of Hugh Bold, Esquire, died December 27, 1806, aged 71, and Hugh Bold, who died Feb. 10, 1809, aged 78.

In the same chapel: "Saered to the memory of Walter Morgan, of this town, gent., who died Oct. 16, 1781, aged 70 years; also Sarah, his wife, died Nov. 20, 1780, aged 63; also of Walter Morgan, junr., died Dec. 19, 1771, aged 22; likewise of David Morgan, gent., late of Abercundrig, he died Dec. 27, 1780, aged 39; Mary, relict of the said David Morgan, died Dec. 11, 1801, aged 62; Sarah Morgan, spinster, died Nov. 11, 1796, aged 40; John Morgan, of Llanvace, gent., died Aug. 22, 1808, aged 66; Howell Morgan, of Llanvace, gent., died March 24, 1837, aged 66; Sarah Morgan, spinster, of Llanvace, died Feb. 5, 1851, aged 78."

There is a later inscription to Hugoni Bold, who died 1809, aged 78; and also one to Gualter Churchey, gent., who died 1646; Joanna, whose first husband was James Thomas, of Slwch, gent., and the second Thomas Rodd, of Marden, in the county of Hereford, attorney at law; she died 21st May, 1741.

Imbedded in the East wall may be seen the arms of the Havard family, with their motto "Hope in God." Near to the screen is also an old chest cut out of one piece of timber; this was brought here from Llanspyddid Church a few years ago, but why the antiquities of one parish should be removed to another in this way requires some explanation.

#### IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT.

In the large window of the South transept the centre panel is of stained glass, and on the walls are numerous sepulchral monuments. Immediately under the window are those to the memory of some members of the Marquis of Camden's family. These monuments are surmounted by the arms of the family, as well as the coronet of a peer, carved in marble; the first inscription reads:—"To the memory of Elizabeth, Baroness Camden, consort of Charles, Baron and afterwards Earl Camden, she died in the year 1779, and was interred in the burying place of her husband's family at Seal, in the county of Kent; she was daughter and at length sole heiress of Nicholas Jeffreys, Esq., of the Priory, in the county of Brecknock. In recollection of her many virtues and in affectionate gratitude to the memory of her from whom he inherited the estates of her ancestors in the county of Brecknock, and elsewhere, this tablet is erected in this chancel by her dutiful and affectionate son, John Jeffreys, Marquess, and Earl of Brecknock, K.G." The other inscription is: "Saered to the memory of the Right Honourable John Jeffreys Pratt, Marquess Camden, K.G., who died October 8, 1840, aged 81 years. During a long life passed in the service of the public, and in the highest offices of State, he contributed by voluntary donations towards the exigencies of his country £366,116 14s. 3d. This tablet to record his patriotism and virtues is erected by his affectionate niece, Lady Caroline Wood. 'A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.'" This nobleman was lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1798, one of the tellers of the Exchequer, lord lieutenant of Kent, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, and Recorder of Bath. The inscription on his monument in the Priory has provoked the merriment of a recent learned writer upon sepulchral stones.

The other monuments noticed here are: "William Ives, Esq., of Brecon, who died 28 Nov., 1838, and was buried in the choir of this church. Also of Jane Rhoda, his wife, third daughter of the late Henry Lueas, Esq., M.D., of this town, who died at Clifton, 26 Feb., 1888, and was buried at Arnos Vale Cemetery, near Bristol." Also, "Arabella Ives, widow and relict of Edward Otto Ives, of Titehfield, Hants, formerly Resident of the H.E.I. Co., at Lucknow (and who died May 5, 1809); was born April 13, 1765, died July 22nd, 1853, after many years' residence in this town, and was buried in the choir of this church."

"Saered to the memory of William Vaughan, who departed this life the 23rd January, 1835, aged 67. Likewise of Sarah his wife, who died August 1st, 1828, aged 56. And also of two of their children, William and Margaret: William died Aug. 27, 1819, aged 21; Margaret, wife of William Wilson



Archibald, died Dec. 19, 1824, aged 21 years; Mary Ann, another daughter of the above named William and Sarah Vaughan, and wife of Thomas Morgan, Pipton, Glasbury, who died 29 July, 1840, aged 40 years."

"Near this place lie the bodies of John Price, of this town, Esquire, and of Anne his wife, one of the daughters of Launcelot Herbert, Esq., of the same town, gentleman, deceased. The said John departed this life the 23rd day of September, Anno Dom. 1719, aged 74, and Anne his said wife the 10th day of August, 1699, aged 45. To whose memory this monument was erected in pursuance of the last will and testament of Jenkin Price, of this town, Esquire, their son and heir, by their great-grandson the Reverend Mr William Morgan. In the same place lies interred the body of the said Jenkin Price, Barrister at Law, and Recorder of this town, who by the same will gave twenty shillings a year for ever towards the repairs of this chapel. He died the 26th April, 1735, aged 54. And also the body of Anne, eldest daughter of the said John Price, and Anne his said wife, who was married to Edward Morgan, of the parish of Penderyn, in this county, gentleman, deceased. She departed this life the 16th day of September, 1719, aged 47."

"Near this place are deposited the remains of Samuel Pryce, Esq. He was descended from an ancient family in this county, and for many years served the office of Coroner. Died May 22, 1813, aged 71. Anne his wife died 24 Nov., 1794, aged 52 years. And here lieth interred Elizabeth, daughter of John Wilkins, Esq., and relict of Samuel Pryce, Esq., died February 25, 1814, aged 63."

"Sacred to the memory of John Powell, Esq., born 17 July, 1761, died 5th Aug., 1809, and was buried near this spot."

"Esther, relict of the late Rev. William Williams, rector of Llyswen, in the county of Brecon, and daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Maund; she died 10th day of November, 1843, aged 75 years." Below this is one to "Anna, wife of William North of this town, and daughter of James and Jane Watson, of Bishop Waremouth, in the county of Durham, died October 11th, 1802, aged 65 years." "Frederick Jones, Esq., formerly Captain of Artillery on the Bombay establishment; who died January 26th, 1834, aged 77." This monument was erected by his nephew, Charles M. D. Humphreys, Esq."

There is a marble tablet, the work of "J. E. Thomas, sculptor, London," to the Maybery family. It is inscribed: "Near this place lie the remains of Thomas Maybery, Esq., son of John Maybery, Esq., and Ann his wife (eldest daughter of John Wilkins, Esq., by Sibyl, eldest daughter of Walter Jeffreys, Esq.), who departed this life the 10th November, 1829, aged 70 years. Also the remains of Elizabeth, wife of the aforesaid Thomas Maybery, and daughter of the Rev. Richard Davies, vicar of Brecon; she departed this life the 22nd January, 1842, aged 72 years. And also the remains of Richard, John, Thomas, William, John, and Charlotte, children of the above named Thomas and Elizabeth Maybery, who all died in their infancy. And of Emily, their daughter, who died the 4th of November, 1824, aged 10 years. Also of Frances Maybery, sister of the aforesaid Thomas Maybery; she died the 15th January, 1845, aged 92 years." The tablet was erected "to the memory of his beloved relatives by Walter Maybery, Esq." Members of this family are also buried in the Brecon Cemetery, and in another part of this work will be found the later monumental inscriptions.

"Near this place lie the bodies of Walter Jeffreys of this town, Esq., and Magdalen his wife. The said Walter Jeffreys died the 19th of May, Anno Dom. 1748, aged 71 years. The said Magdalen dyed the 14th June, Anno Domini 1734, aged 50 years. The said Walter Jeffreys left issue by the said Magdalen, Edward Jeffreys, gent.; Sibill, the wife of John Wilkins, of this town, gent.; Jane Jeffreys, spinster; and Magdalen, the wife of David Morgan, of Bettws, in the county of Radnor, gent." Near, are monuments to Thomas Morgan and Ann his wife, both of Peytendu, Llanddewi; they died 1808 and 1814 respectively.

"William Phillips, Recorder, died 1721, aged 58, leaving issue one daughter, who married Henry Scourfield, Esq., of the Moat, Pembrokeshire."

"William Morgan James, Esq., died Feb. 27th, 1798; also of Rev. Thomas James, died May 11, 1812." The monument was erected by their brother, Launcelot Morgan, Esq., and is a fine piece of sculpture by the eminent Flaxman.

On the floor are many memorials. On a marble slab set into a large stone is the following: "Here lieth the body of Alice, wife of Meredith Penry; she died Nov. 15th, 1775, aged 58 years. Also the above Meredith Penry, son of Hugh Penry, of Abersenny isaf, in Devynock; he died May 6, 1799, aged 84. Here also rest the remains of Catherine Penry, spinster, daughter to the above named Meredith and Alice Penry, who died the 9th day of June, 1812, in the 68th year of her age. Likewise in memory of Elizabeth, the beloved wife of William Winstone, and granddaughter of the above named Meredith Penry, died January 6, 1837, aged 64. Also the above William Winstone, who died



Oet. 5, 1846, aged 61." The Winstone family from the above alliance appear to have favoured Penry as a Christian name, even to the present day.

On another marble inset: "Frances, wife of Thomas Phillips, of the town of Brecknock, gent., and second daughter of Charles Vaughan, of the same town, Esq., who dyed 22nd day of March, 1757, aged 23." (Above is a very elaborate coat of arms.) Near by is another: "Mrs Elizabeth Wilkins, wife of Thomas Wilkins, Esq., and daughter of Rev. William Games, rector of Llanddetty, died April 2, 1772, aged 28." And also to the "Widow of Edward Jeffreys, Esq., died December 1786, aged 69"; and "Frances Maybery, Ob. 13 June, 1823." Another tablet has: "Underneath this stone lieth the body of Captain Frederick Jones, of Brecon, died 26 June, 1834, aged 77"; and one stone has simply: "Richard Williams, Esquire."

"Walter Vaughan, of this town, brazier, died September, 1776, aged 51. William Vaughan, surgeon, died August, 1819, aged—; Mary, wife of William Wilson and sister of William Vaughan, died December, 1824, aged 21; William Vaughan, died January 23, 1835, aged 67; Mary Ann, daughter of William and Mary Ann Vaughan, and wife of Thomas Morgan, of Pipton Villa, Glasbury, died July 20, 1840, aged 40 years."

"Thomas Phillips, of Trostrey, died 1761; Priseilla, his wife, died 1787; Jane Watkin, daughter, who died 1797," and to Thomas Watkin, gent., her husband.

"Mary, wife of David Morgan, of Abereynrig, gent., died 1801, aged 61; Margaret, wife of Lewis Jones, of Penrose, Monmouth, gent., died August, 1804, aged 40"; also their infant son. Near this, "Katherine Price, died 1757, aged 76," and her husband; also "Rev. William —, of Brecon, and Catherine his wife; he died 20 Nov. 1813, aged 92; she died, aged 70, in 1800"; set into this stone is a marble plate, "Edward Morgan, Esq., Reeorder, obiit Sept. 6, 1821."

Adjoining these, one to "John Brown, of this town, weaver, married Catherine, daughter of David Williams, of ye Barle—, now wife of Walter Brooks. He died March ye 9, 1730, aged 43 years; left issue Evan, Elizabeth, and Catherine. Here lyeth ye body of Sibil, the wife of Evan Brown, who died April 16, 1765, aged 41. Meek was her temper, Modest was her life, A tender Mother, and a Virtuous Wife. Greater blessing ne'er to man was given, Nor a greater loss except the loss of Heav'n."

There is a stone to Henry Thomas, who was bailiff and alderman of this town. He married Joane, the daughter of John Games, of Cuy, who died 11th day of April, —. Also one to "John Awbrey, son of John Jeffreys of this town; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Morgan Awbrey. He was twice bailiff of ye town, and seven times alderman; he died Jan. ye 22, 1718, aged 53 years." And to "Thomas Maybery, Esq., died 10 Nov., 1829, aged 70." Inscriptions upon other stones are as follow:—

"Elizabeth, wife of Gabriel Jeffreys of this town, daughter of Walter Williams, of the Wern, in the parish of Talgarth, and granddaughter of David Powell of the parish of Llanywern, who died —. Gabriel Jeffreys, of this town, surgeon, died 1766, aged 49."

"Rev. Robert Wynter, rector of Penderrin, in this county, died Nov. 1805; Anne, his wife, died August, 1803; also the Rev. Robert Wynter, rector of Penderrin, son of the above, born 1794, died April 11, 1831." This is set into a stone upon which the name "Bvllect" is disceipherable.

"Walter Jeffreys, Esq., died Oct. 15, A.D. 1811." This is set into a stone on which is inscribed "Here lyeth the body of Howell Thomas the younger; had three wives, lastly Jane, the daughter of Thomas Gvnter, Esq. He died the 12th day of August, 1674." This is Powell the ironmonger's stone, and there is upon it a large coat of arms with many quarterings. Near this is a stone marked M.W. and the Havard arms.

"Martha, wife of Charles Penry of this town, and second daughter of Mr. James Allen, of Gilestown in the county of Glamorgan, by Mrs. Winifred Giles, daughter and hayrest of Major William Giles, of Gilestown in the said county; she departed this lie ye XII day of June, in the year of our Lord 1724, aged 32. Also the body of Charles Penry, Esq.; he departed this life XIX day of May, in the year of our Lord God 1727, aged 48."

"Henry, son of William Davies, eorvizer, died Oet. 27, 1779," and also other sons.

"Here lyeth the body of George John North, son of George and Ann North of this town, who died 29th Oet., 1829, in the 23rd year of his age; also of the above named George North, who died Sept. 22, 1830, aged 76; also of the same Ann North, who died on the 10th day of Mareh, 1855, aged 85." The marble tablet on which this is cut is set into a large stone inscribed: "Mary, the beloved wife of John Walters, of —, who had issue 4 sons and 2 daughters."



“Walter Morgan, of this town, skinner, died 16th October, 1761, aged 70.”

“Joan Watkins, the daughter of Watkin ap Euan, she departed of this life 19th day of April, 1687.” There is an earlier date on this stone, viz., 1666.

A defaced stone: “—— ——— Body of John —— descended of John Skwl, Knight, who married Ann, daughter of Howell Morgan, of Devynock, gent., and they had issue William, Thomas, Margaret, Elizabeth, Gwenllian, Jonett, and Johan. He died the 28 day of April, Anno Domini, 1680, aged 78 years.” There is a many-quartered coat of arms carved upon this stone.

“Here lieth the body of Peter, the son of Peter Evans, of this town, who departed this life 27 day of 7ber Anno Dom. 1677.”

“David, son of David Griffith, vicar of Merthyr. He died the 29th day of April, 176—, in the 12th year of his age.”

“John Whittam, Esq., obiit April 6, 1842, ætat 38.”

“To the memory of Isabella Powell, the daughter and only child of John Powell, doctor of physic,” already referred to.

#### THE TREGUNTER CHAPEL.

In the Tregunter Chapel, is placed the organ. This magnificent instrument was erected by public subscription in the year 1879. A small door from the choir leads into this chapel, and here are several monuments to the Tregunter family. The inscriptions on those now exposed are to “Richard Hughes, late of this town, Esq., died 13th June, 1739, aged 78, and of Mary his wife, who died 25 Jan., 1718, aged 51. He was 13th child of Charles Hughes, of Trostrey, in the co. of Monmouth, Esq. She was eldest daughter and co-heiress of John Philpot, of Monmouth Town, Esq. Of their children five lie buried near this place, namely, Richard, Charles, Mary, Elizabeth, and Mary. Also Charles Hughes, Esq., grandson of the above Richard and Mary, who died the 5th day of May, 1756, in his 28th year. Erected by John Hughes, Esq., 3rd son of Richard and Mary, 1756.” Several other names have been painted on this tablet, but they are now so obliterated as to render them unreadable. Another tablet is “To the memory of Amelia, erected by her mother; she was the youngest daughter of Samuel Hughes, Esq., and died June ye 9, 1794, nearly 8 years.” Also “Sacred to the memory of Anna Maria Hughes, spinster, who died 23rd March, 1853, in the 79th year of her age.” Likewise, “Sacred to the memory of Eliza Anne Madocks, of Tregunter, in this county, relict of W. A. Madocks, Esq., of the Madoc, Carnarvonshire, who expired the 30th July, 1859, in the 75th year of her age.” And another reads, “This tablet is erected by Anna Maria Hughes, in memory of her husband Samuel Hughes, Esq., who died February 6, 1795, aged 63 years; also their two sons, Samuel Harris Hughes (the eldest, died August 15, 1796, aged only 21 years, whose premature death and many amiable virtues so deeply wounded a fond mother’s heart, no time can blunt the arrows of her affection), Thomas Harries, who in the service of his country fell a victim to the yellow fever in the West Indies in the exercise of his duties as an officer in the 48th Regt. of Foot, died July 25, 1796, aged only 20 years. The above named Anna Maria Hughes departed this life April 26, 1814, aged 69.”

#### THE NAVE.

Under the tower, the floor contains but few sepulchral inscriptions. Those seen are: “Henry Lucas, M.D., died July 21, 1840, aged 67; Theresa Lucas, died July 18, 1850, aged 63.” “Ann, wife of John Bevan, died March 1763, aged 63.” “William Wynter, Esq., died April 1, 1806, aged 39.” “Ann, daughter of William and John Blashfield, who died young, April 29, 1811.”

The Tailors’ Chapel, besides the recumbent effigy beneath a recessed tomb, contains several sepulchral slabs on the south wall (one to Richard Creed, died 1666, and another to Thomas ap Richard Thomas, but without date); on the floor is one in old English text partly covered, and others much defaced, relate to the Bulcott’s, with the date 1631, and Powell, *feltmaker*, date 1693.

In the nave of the church are windows of stained glass: “To the glory of God and in memory of David W. J. Thomas and Elizabeth Grace his wife, this window was erected by his children.” This gentleman was churchwarden of the parish for 30 years, and held many public appointments; he was a solicitor and the eldest son of the late David Thomas, Esq., one of the Thomases of Welfield in Breconshire. He died in 1899, and lies buried in the Brecon Cemetery. Another window has a brass plate beneath it, which says “Phoebe Jones caused this window to be erected in memory of herself, her husband Evan Jones, her father William Webb, and her mother Phoebe Webb, all of this town. A.D. 1889.” There is also another: “To the glory of God and in memory of John Morgan-Thomas, J.P. for the county of Brecknock, Glyngarth, Brecon. Born 24 Jan., 1831, died 17 Dec., 1902. The above window was erected by him to the memory of his loving and beloved wife and children. This



tablet is erected by his two surviving children." The small window to the right of the west window has a brass beneath inscribed: "To the glory of God and in memory of the undermentioned officers and men of the 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers (24th Regt.), who were killed in action or died of disease in the Burmah Campaign, 1886-7-8. This window is erected by their comrades in the Line, Militia, and Volunteer Battalions of the S.W.B., 1890"—(then follow the names of 1 officer and 50 non-commissioned officers and men). The next window is one given by Mr Aneurin George, who was for 50 years churchwarden of this parish: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife and daughter Elizabeth and Emily Catherine George; A.D. 1887." Beneath this window, and affixed to the wall, are memorial stones to the memory of some members of this family, including Joan George, who lived to be 100 years; two others lived to be 91 and 96 years respectively, and the total of the five persons commemorated amounts to 419 years.

A painted board affixed to the wall near the main entrance records the fact that the Incorporated Society for Building Churches granted in 1873 the sum of £100 towards the re-seating and restoring of the church upon condition that all the sittings in the church be free for the use of parishioners according to law; and near the entrance to the vestry is another board upon which is painted particulars of the Sir Joseph Bailey bequest, viz., "Be it Remembered that Sir Joseph Bailey, of Glanusk Park, in the county of Brecon, Bart., M.P., by a codicil to his will dated the 19th day of May, 1856, gave to the poor of the town of Brecon for ever the yearly sum of £20 sterling to be applied from time to time for the benefit of any poor individuals being inhabitants of the said town, to be selected for that purpose by the minister and churchwardens for the time being of the parish church as they in their discretion should think proper. And for answering the said sum he hereby directed his executors within 12 months after his decease to invest in the three per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities in the corporate name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds such a sum as would by the dividends thereof produce that annual sum. Rev. GARNONS WILLIAMS, Vicar; GEORGE J. WILLIAMSON, ANEURIN GEORGE, Churchwardens, Brecon, 1860."

The sepulchral stones on the floor of the nave are mostly those which were brought into the church from the churchyard when the nave was restored in 1874, and are principally to the memory of families engaged in trade within the borough; but some of them are mentioned in the list collected by Jones, such as the tombstone to Dennis, a son of Luce Vaughan, daughter of Henry Vaughan, "doctor of physick," of Llansaintfraed; and Morgan son to Lewis Morgan, vicar of this town. . . . died 19 day of May, 1629; &c. Some of the stones visible are to the following: John Philbidge, died Nov. 7, 1796, aged 71, and Evan his son, who died 1768, and also to another Evan Philbidge, aged 48, who died 1784; members of this family traded in Brecon up to quite recent years. Thomas Williams, saddler, son of Thomas Williams, gent., of Glantowy, Carmarthenshire, died ye 27 May, 17—, aged 31, and left issue a daughter. Richard Watkins, corvizer, died 1812, aged 75. Katherine Bowens, wife of David Bowens, of this Burrough, currier, died May 21, 1757, aged 77; David, died 27 April, 1765, aged 65. Mary, wife of Evan Gwyn, Chandler, died Nov. 16, 1733, aged 70. William Morgan, Esq., who dyed ye 23rd day of May, A.D. 1725, aged 30; also Edward Morgan, Esq., dyed 27 day of March, 1750. John Jones, late of Six Bells, died March 30, 1790, aged 29, and Jane his daughter. Vaughan William Ferrant, late of the parish of Caron in Cardiganshire, died 1788, aged 50. Margaret the wife of Edward Lloyd, died Oct. 17, 1774, aged 63. William Watkin, of this town, corvizer, son of John Watkins, of Pante, in ye parish of Talachddy, died Feb. 16, 1725, aged 33. Elizabeth, wife of John Nicholas, of this town, who died April 21, 1812, aged 72 (this is cut into the Luce Vaughan stone). David Lewis, of this town, *harper*, died 24 June, 1781, aged 54, and Elizabeth his wife, died 1782, aged 57, (a member of a profession now almost unknown). Thomas Robb, innkeeper, died 1770. Maria Theresa Cotton, relict of — Salisbury Cotton, Esq., died July 13, 1791 (?), aged 73. William Hughes, *hattmaker*, died Feb. 18, 1808, aged 27, and his sons. To the Pugh family, butchers. Near the vestry door: Thomas Longfellow, died June 30, 1815, aged 54; John Longfellow, eldest son, died in London, Aug. 13, 1816, aged 46; William Longfellow, died in London, 14 day of Feb., 1843, aged 63; Amelia, relict of William Longfellow, died 11 May, 1849, aged 49; Sarah Longfellow, died in London, March 24, 1851, aged 74, a daughter of Thomas Longfellow, late of Brecon. A member of this family was also buried here in 1780. Some of them were innkeepers in Brecon, and father and son successively held the office of secretary to Breconshire Agricultural Society. Near by, "Launcelot Morgan, gent., town clerk of this burrough, who was youngest son of William Morgan, of the same burrough and of Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Meredith James, of the same burrough, gent.; he died 24 March, 1753, aged 29. Mary, wife of Edward Davies, weaver, died Feb. 22, 1775, aged 53; he died Feb. 15, 1794, aged 71. John Powell, ironmonger, son of Thomas Powell, of this town, innkeeper, by Ann his wife, who died May 9, 1809, aged 25; Ann, daughter of Thomas Powell, died April 1811, aged 24. Thomas Morgan, late Corporal in Brecon Militia, died July 17 —. Joan Harris, spinster,



who lived for 36 years in the service of Mrs Allen, she died April 8, 1825, aged 64; there is another to an old servant in the same lady's house. Powell, china dealer, died Feb. 8, 1838. David Waters, *cardmaker*, died 1775. Beside these there are many others now covered by the seats and matting of the nave. On its walls, in addition to those already mentioned, such as the Griffiths, Gunters, &c., one to Thomas Batt, Esq., surgeon in 7th Royal Fusiliers, and coroner, who died on the Bulwark, where he resided, on 13 Jan., 1848, aged 65. Also to Thomas Dumaresq, son of Thomas Batt and Cartarette his wife, who died in Guernsey 19th January, 1815, and Catherine Jane, their daughter, who died at Caen, 3rd Nov., 1834. Rev. Thomas Clarke Griffiths, M.A., who died April 4, 1852, aged 61, also of Anna Jane, his wife, youngest daughter of Rev. John Williams, M.A., of Abercamlais, who died 17 May, 1856, aged 76. Another to Thomas, the eldest son of Crozier Thomas, Esq., who died Sept. 8, 1777; Hugh Lloyd, died 1770; Joseph Michael Awbrey, who died at Vittoria, March, 1856; his sister erected this monument, which states that owing to untoward circumstances he entered the service of the Queen of Spain, and after many privations met with an untimely death.

Near the font is the recumbent effigy in wood of a lady, being one of five figures which formed part of a tomb to the Games family of Aberbran (date 1555), and around about are several old sepulchral crosses and inscriptions, and a cope-chest, quarter circle in shape.

Near to the doorway leading into the Priory grounds, are two large slabs lying flat upon the ground to the memory of two very ancient families still represented—the Gwyns of Abercrâf, and the Wynters. As the inscriptions upon them have not hitherto been correctly recorded, they are here given:—

THE GWYN'S: To the memory of three children of Howell Gwyn, of Abercrave, by Gwenllian his wife, viz., Thomas, died 10 March, 1719, Walter died 12 April, 1719, Edward died 20 Oct. 1726; also Howell Gwyn, gent, who died September 29, 1740, aged 70; Gwenllian his wife died 22 March, 1758, aged 87. Ann, daughter of Howell Gwyn, died 2nd June, 1760, aged 22. Upon the other half of the stone: Also three children of Howell Gwyn, Esq., by Teresa Maria his wife, viz. Teresa Maria died 10 May, 1763, aged 15 weeks; Gwen Mariana, died 5 June, 1770, aged 9; John died 3 July, 1772, aged 7 years; also Howell Gwyn, Esq., died March 5, 1775, aged 60.

THE WYNTER'S:—In addition to those already mentioned: "Mary wife of William Wynter, Esq., of this town, who died August 6, 1749, aged 39; also the body of William Wynter, Esq., who died June 2nd, 1758, aged 55. William Wynter, Esq., died April 1, 1805; Hugh Wynter, Esq., died December, 1, 1833, aged 28; Jane Wynter, died July 31st, 1838, aged 37; Elizabeth Wynter, widow of the above named William Wynter, and mother of the above named Hugh Wynter and Jane Wynter, died on the 27th day of March, 1847, aged 70; Captain Daniel Wynter, 11th Regt. M.N.I., died April 30, 1842; also William Wynter, eldest son of the above Captain D. Wynter, and Lieutenant in the 52nd. Regt. Madras N.I., who died at Hayteepaulee May 27, 1856, in the 23rd year of his age."

#### THE PRIORY CRESSET STONE.

Behind the font is placed a cresset stone, of which Mrs Dawson, a daughter of Archdeacon W. L. Bevan, M.A., wrote: "Not long since a remarkably fine and perfect specimen of a cresset stone was discovered in a garden at Brecon, and there can be little doubt that it originally came from the Priory, and was the identical cresset stone which hundreds of years ago, afforded a light to Godfrey the cook and his brother monks as they chanted their praises and prayers, and kept their night vigils in the dim Priory while all the world slept." The history of the recovery of this stone is described by Miss Gwenllian E. F. Morgan (who with her sister presented it to the Priory in 1907). She writes: "Many years ago the late Miss Sarah Jenkins, of Struet House, Brecon (aunt to G. Hyatt Williams, Esq., town clerk), noticed a curious looking block of stone, with many round holes worked into its surface, lying neglected in a garden at Pendre not far from the church; she always took a keen interest in antiquities, and had considerable knowledge on antiquarian subjects, so she at once formed the opinion that it was a cresset stone, and purchased it from the owner, to which act of hers we owe its preservation, though it did not occur to her that it had ever belonged to the Priory, though from the place in which it was found, and from all we have been able to learn about it, we are perfectly satisfied that it was removed from our parish church about 60 years ago. At that time the church was unrestored, and there was not the same reverent interest taken in the relics of the past, which now happily prevails, so that in sheer ignorance the cresset may have been taken away. Some years after Miss Jenkins found the stone she gave it to us. . . . whether the cresset stone came from the Monastery or the church we do not know, but it has a larger number of holes than any other specimen we have seen. Its dimensions are as follows: Size 2ft. by 1ft. 9in.; depth at thickest part, 6 inches; it contains 30 holes of a diameter of 3 inches each, the depth of each hole being 3 inches; it is of native stone which has laminated in two places, probably at the result of blows; it is very heavy, and we are told the workmanship used in making the holes is remarkable, as, without the greatest care, the stone would have been broken."

The burial ground of the Priory was closed in the year 1858, and after that date interments were generally made in the Brecon Cemetery, but in 1876 an application was made to the Home Secretary by representatives of Sybil, widow of John Cadogan, for an order to open a grave so that she could



be buried with her husband, who died in 1852. This order was granted, and the burial took place. After this an inspector was sent down by the Home Office, and, so we are informed by Mr. Aneurin George, permission was granted for burials to be made in the old churchyard. But it was generally understood that space would only be provided for the dead whose families had been already interred in the churchyard. Even this rule has, however, been departed from, for in 1887, the wife of William Ind, schoolmaster at the National School, was buried there, and at a later date William Ind himself was buried there. Neither of these persons were natives of the parish, nor had they relatives buried in the churchyard. The burials, however, are very rare, and for years past there has been a disposition on the part of the authorities to discourage their taking place.

At the restoration of the nave in 1872-75, the entrance gate to the churchyard was at the boundary wall running parallel with the main road, but in consequence of traffic through this gateway into the yard of the Camden property, it soon became in a ruined state. When, therefore, in 1900, a new lychgate was erected by the representatives of the late Mr. J. R. Cobb, it was put back some distance from the roadway. This handsome gateway has a tablet of stone, upon which is carved the following inscription:—"To the glory of God, lived 1821-1897 Joseph Richard Cobb, to whose memory this gate is erected by his wife and children, 1900." The gentleman here commemorated was of Nythfa, Brecon, and a celebrated antiquary who contributed large sums towards the restoration of churches at Brecon, Llanddew, and elsewhere.

Passing into the churchyard, we find the main pathway, leading into the Priory Groves, planted on either side with trees which form a delightful avenue. For many years prior to 1896 the appearance of the burial ground was a reproach to the parishioners. The old monuments were largely in ruins, and the whole aspect was one of neglect. But in the year named, subscriptions were sought to remedy this state of things. The first step taken was to level up the older sepulchral monuments, but in doing this many of them were removed a considerable distance from their original positions; so that when we read: "Here lyeth the body" of a particular departed one, it must not be accepted as literally true; of course this does not apply to other than head-stones. The general appearance of the churchyard is, however, much improved, and a commendable interest is being maintained in these improvements, so as to make it harmonious with the stately structure skirting the full length of it. A careful survey of the monuments reveals the fact that nearly all the ancient stones have disappeared; probably many of them have from time to time been taken into the church, and it is by no means improbable that some were taken to repair adjacent cottages and buildings, for not long ago the remnant of a tombstone dated 1600 was found in a building at the top of Pendre.

Perhaps the oldest in the churchyard now is the stone underneath one of the yews facing the main entrance to the church, viz., "HERE . LYETH . THE . BODY . OF . AGNES . VZ . LEWIS . JONES . SCRYVENER . DESCENDED . OF . MAYNARCH . LO . OF . BRECON . SHE . MARIED . JOHN . MEREDITH . THOMAS . AP . MORGAN . THEY . HAD . ISSVE . THOMAS . DAVID . LEWIS . ALS . ELIZABETH . AND . SICILY . SHE . DIED . THE . 18 . OF . JANVARI . ANO . DNI . 1628." Next in the matter of age come the Wynstone tombstones, lying flat near to the small gateway leading to the entrance of choir vestry at the west end of church. These burials commence in 1696, and continue to 1714; this family held important positions in trade for several generations, and descendants are still living within the borough.

#### ARCHDEACON DAVIES'S FAMILY VAULT.

The churchyard contains the vault of Archdeacon Davies's family, to which there was formerly an entrance through the Vicar's chapel. The high railings were removed when the restoration of the nave was completed; over the vault is a large square tombstone, surmounted by an urn, similar in construction to the monument over the Williams of Penpont vault in the Penpont churchyard. The four squares are thickly covered with inscriptions, which are here given:—

"Within these rails (and in the premises adjoining) in hopes of a joyful resurrection, through the merits of a redeeming Saviour, is deposited what was mortal of ROBERT WILLIAMS, Esq., of this town. He died on the 16th day of December, 1810, aged 81.

"Also CATHERINE, wife of the said ROBERT WILLIAMS and daughter of the Reverend RICHARD and JOANNA DAVIES. She died the 4th day of September 1816, aged 81.

"Also of MARY, daughter of HENRY DAVIES, Esq., and FRANCES his wife. She died the 23rd of January, 1802, aged 22.

"Also of HENRY DAVIES, Esq., second son of the before-mentioned RICHARD and JOANNA DAVIES. He died the 28th day of May, 1813, aged 71.

"Also of SIBYL wife of the Rev. RICHARD COLLINSON, rector of King's Weston in the county of Somerset, and daughter of the before named Reverend RICHARD and JOANNA DAVIES. She died on the 31st day of October, 1815, aged 71.

"Also of Captain JOHN RYND (late of the 53rd Regiment of Infantry) who married MARY the youngest daughter of the Rev. RICHARD DAVIES, vicar of Brecon, and ELIZABETH his wife. He died the 31st day of March, 1821, aged 59.

"Also of MARY, widow of Captain WILLIAM DAVIES of Gwern-y-fed, and second daughter of EDWARD ALLEN, Esq., of The Lodge, in this county, and JOANNA his wife, who was the oldest daughter of the Rev. RICHARD DAVIES, Archdeacon of St. David's, and JOANNA his wife. She died at Brecon the 24th day of March, 1831, aged 73.



Also of FRANCES, widow of the above named HENRY DAVIES, Esq. She died on the 18th day of June, 1837, in the 91st year of her age,

"To the memory of JOANNA daughter of the Rev. RICHARD DAVIES, M.A., Archdeacon of St. David's, and widow of the late EDWARD ALLEN, Esq., of The Lodge, in this county. She died on the 25th day of March, A.D. 1805, in the 80th year of her age.

"Also of MARY daughter of the above named RICHARD DAVIES, M.A., and widow of the Rev. HENRY ALLEN, D.D., of Almely in the county of Hereford. She died at Brecon on the 12th day of December, A.D. 1838, in the 96th year of her age, and was buried at Almely. Distinguished by simplicity of character and kindness of heart, her long life was passed in the exercise of the largest and most extended charity. Beloved by her family and friends, lamented by the poor and needy, but one common sentiment of regret attends her loss.

"In memory of JOANNA, the wife of Mr. JAMES WILLIAM MORGAN, of this town, and formerly of Treble Hill, Glasbury, great niece of the above named Mrs. MARY ALLEN and her sister Mrs. CATHERINE WILLIAMS, the latter of whom, on her early losing her mother, adopted her as her daughter, and together with her uncle always treated her with parental kindness and affection. She lived at Tenby and was buried in her mother's grave in Glasbury Church on the 8th September, 1847, aged 70 years. Beloved and lamented by all who knew her."

The remaining inscriptions upon this Monument are in Latin, as follow :

"In Sacello huic Sepulchrali Monumento Adjacente Repostum jacet quod Mortale fuit HENRICI WILLIAMS Generosi, et rerum forensium in Oppide Breconensi olim Procuratoris, obiit 6to Calend. Novemb. A.D. 1736 Ætatis suæ 74.

"Etiam HENRICI WILLIAMS filii natu secundi ejus; qui obiit 5to Idus Novemb. A.D. 1723, Ætat 28.

"Etiam Reverendi in Christo Viri THOMÆ WILLIAMS, B.D., filii ejusdem natu tertii; qui per annos 39 Ecclesiam hanc Parochialem, ad honorem Dei, administravit Vicarius: Et per annos 36 in Æde Menevensi Canonicatus munere religiosissime perfunctus est. Vixit annos 89. Obiit 3tio Non. Feb. 1787.

"Subtus Extra Muros, Conduntur ejusdem familiæ qui sequuntur Cineros: Nimirum Reverendi in Christo Viri RICHARDI DAVIES, B.D., Parochiæ Breconensis Vicarii, Necnon in Cathedrali Ecclesiâ Menevensi Archidiaconi simul et Canonici. Obiit 10mo. Calend. December A.D. 1748, Ætat 52.

"JOHANNÆ ejusdem RICHARDI Viduæ, et Hen. Williams, de prænominati filiæ. Obiit 11mo. Calend. April A.D., 1751. Ætat 52.

"Reverendi in Christo Viri RICHARDI DAVIES, M.A., Prædicti RICHARDI et JOHANNÆ filii natu maximi. Vicariam hanc Breconensem, per 17 annos tenuit; Canonicus itidem Menevensis exstitit. Obiit 11 mo. Calend. Septem. A.D. 1804. Ætat 67.

"ELIZABETHÆ ejusdem RICHARDI, viduæ, et PENRÆI WILLIAMS de Penpont in agro Breconensi Armegeri, ex filiabus natu maximæ obiit 15to Calend. Decemb. A.D. 1816. Ætat 76.

"MARTHÆ, filiæ infantalæ RICARDI DAVIES, junioris quæ et RICARDI et ELIZABETHÆ, neptis erat. Evita jam tantum incepta in lucem transiit æternam, pridie Calend. August, 1803.

"MATHÆ, charissimæ conjugis RICARDI DAVIES, Archidiaconi simul et vicarii Breconiensis Necnon in Ecclesiâ Menevensi Canonici. Ex filiabus Reverendi JOHANNIS WILLIAMS de Abercamlais in agro Breconia et Archidiaconi Cereticensis vixit natu quarta. Bathoniæ confecit cursum 6to Non Maii A.D. 1820. Ætatis 42.

"Suis et sibi hoc monumentum extrui curavit R.D. Mæreus, LECTOR, Communis est quam aspicias mortalitatis facias."

"M.S. :—RICARDI DAVIES, M.A., Qui annos plus L. Archidiaconus simul et Vicarius Breconiensis Necnon annos plus XLIV. In Ecclesiâ apud Menevenses Cathedrali Canonicus. Obiit Prid-Id-Mai: MDCCCLIX. Anno Ætatis LXXXIIimo."

#### THE CHURCHYARD INSCRIPTIONS IN 1908.

Near by is a tomb to Frederick Watkins, J.P., who died in 1881, aged 76; he was a former Registrar of Christ College. On the edge of the path near the Groves entrance are several tombs to Howell Maund, Esq., and other members of that family. In the same portion, is a chaste monument, "In loving Remembrance of Major Charles Henry Lumley, V.C., Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who died at Brecon, October 17, 1858, aged 34 years. 'In a little wrath I hid my face from Thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.' " This gallant soldier won the Victoria Cross at the storming of the Redan during the Crimean war, and when stationed at Brecon committed suicide while temporarily insane. Several soldiers and their wives are buried hereabout. Andrew Skeyne, assistant surgeon 52nd Light Infantry, died at Brecon, 23rd January, 1846, aged 33. Eliza Catherine, wife of James Watson, captain 14th Regiment, who died 30th April, 1839, aged 27, and of John their son, who died 28th April, 1839, aged 7 months; Widderington Jackson, aged 21 years, an ensign in the 41st Regiment, who was killed by a fall from his horse on the 9th May, 1845; James Brown, late sergt.-major of the 93rd Highlanders, who died January 12, 1831, aged 34 years; Private Samuel Coarse, 11th Regt., of Foot, who was accidentally shot when at ball practice at Battle Hill on the 7th August, 1855, aged 22 years; Mary Ann, wife of Simon Hurley, 4th Dragoon Guards, who died June 5, 1854, aged 27; Hannah wife of Sergt.-Major James Sly, of the Royal Scots Greys, who died Oct. 30, 1851, aged 37; other stones record the deaths of soldiers of the 52nd Regt. of Foot, 82nd Regt., 11th Regt., and Grenadier Company of the 11th Regt. (dates between 1842 and 1848). Under a small tree is the monument to the French prisoner of war who died at Brecon:

CI GIT FRANCOIS HUSSON, PRISONNIER DE GUERRE FRANCAIS, CAPTAIN AM 4 REGT.

D'ARTILLERIE DE MARINE DECEDE LE 27 AVRIL 1810 DE 48 ANS.

BY FOREIGN HANDS HIS HUMBLE GRAVE ADORN'D,

BY STRANGERS HONOUR'D, BY STRANGERS MOURN'D.

Not far away is a heap of stones, the ruins of the once substantial box tombs of the Churchey



family, two members of which, father and son, bore the same name. Walter Churchey the elder was a poet of some ability, and published several of his compositions, including "Pocms and Imitations of the British Poets," an "Essay on Man, &c."; "A Philippic on the Idleness of a Causeless Session at Brecon, with a very nice and useful application at the close"; an "Ode to Music"; "An Elegy to the memory of the late celebrated William Cooper, Esq."; and when the great Admiral Nelson visited Brecon, he sang his praises in an ode which the gallant seaman suitably acknowledged in a letter of thanks. So far as it is possible to decipher them, the inscriptions read: "Sacred to the memory of Walter Churchey, Esq., who departed this life the 3rd day of December, 1805, in the 58th year of his age. Also of Mary his wife who died October 26, 1822, aged 77, and to their second daughter Jane who died October 29, 1842." Another stone commemorates the death of a daughter Mary who died October 1st, 1835; and on a third we read, "Underneath this tomb lie the mortal remains (commingling with those of his revered parents and beloved sister) of Walter Churchey, Esq., for 26 years town clerk of Brecknock. The strict integrity, unwearied diligence, and consummate skill with which he executed many important offices, gained for him universal esteem, while in the domestic and social circle he was much endeared by the suavity of his manners, the playfulness of his wit, and the extreme kindness of his disposition. His surviving relatives deeply deploring their afflictive bereavement, cherish his memory with fondness and veneration, and console themselves with the Christian assurance of a happy reunion to endure through a blessed and glorious eternity. He died Feb. 28, 1840."

Near to the Churchey graves is a monument, "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Williams, Esqr., of this town, wine merchant, who died the 7th February, 1855, aged 45 years. He for several years faithfully discharged his duties as a magistrate and member of the Town Council, and was twice elected Mayor of the Borough. Exemplary in every relation of life as a husband, a father, a friend, and a neighbour, and his death will ever be regretted as an irreparable loss by his wife and children who are left to mourn their early bereavement." A son of this gentleman died May 20, 1858, aged 20, and another son died 24 March, 1879, aged 44 years.

On the wall of the church, facing the churchyard, is a stone inscribed: "Near this place lie the remains of Johanna Prichard, the late wife of Charles Prichard, surgeon, and apothecary of this town. She departed this life the 27th of January, 1779, aged 50 years." Beneath this, laid flat on the ground, is "Under this stone are deposited the remains of Charles Prichard, Esq., of this town, surgeon, who departed this life the 10th day of November, 1804, aged 73. Reader! he was the noblest work of God's: he was an honest man. He lived universally esteemed, and his loss is most sincerely and deeply regretted. Erected by his widow and executrix, Elizabeth Prichard." Adjoining this is one to the only child of Howell Harris, of Trefecca, and the full inscription is as follows: "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Pritchard, the widow of the said Charles Prichard, late of this town, esquire, and only child of Howell Harris, late of Trevecca, Esqre., deceased. She died 8th February 1826, aged 78 years." And close by are stones to the memory of Elizabeth, wife of Hugh Bold, of this town, gent., who dyed the 31st Oct., 1781, and to infant daughters of Thomas and Marianne. Bold, who died in 1802 and 1804, also of Thomas, infant son of the above, who died 14 April, 1807.

In front of the small door leading into the church: "Here lyeth ye body of Susanna Madocks, she died December the 4th, 1741, aged 83 (?)" and "Here lyeth the body of John Jones, of the Queen's Head Inn, in this town, who died ye 26th June, 1805, aged 38 years. Also of Elizabeth, daughter of the said John Jones, by Joan his wife, who died the 16th July, 1802, aged 7 years.

Nearly facing the porch is the tomb upon which is carved the arms of the Gwernyfed Williamses. The inscription reads: "Here lyeth the body of David Williams, of the Gare, in this parish, esquire, who departed this life ye 29th day of July, 1767, aged 76. Also David Williams, junior, of the Gare, gent., died February 14, 1787, aged 50. Also David Williams, son of the above, died May ye 14, 1785, aged 6 years. Also of Rachel, wife of Rees Price, of Gare in this parish, who died the 13th October, 1821, aged 66 years." Near this tomb is a stone lying flat on the ground, inscribed: "Here lyeth the body of Rebecka Morgans, daughter to David Williams, of Gare, esquire, who departed this life July the 18, 1771, aged 30 years. Also lyeth the body of Catherine Williams, mother of the above named, who died April ye 19, 1783, aged 70 years." In another part there are monuments to Thomas Price, of Gaer, who died March 12, 1841, aged 41 years. This Thomas Price was a most highly esteemed agriculturist, and was the recipient of a testimonial of silver plate of considerable value from the noblemen and gentlemen of the district. Sarah his daughter died in 1848, aged 25, and Margaret his wife in 1852; his grandson, David Lewis Price, son of the late Lewis Price, chandler, of Llanfaes, died 24 August, 1906, aged 32. By the side of this monument is one to William Thomas, chandler, of Llanfaes, who died in 1847, aged 83, and his wife Sarah, who died 1843, aged 79.



There are some tombs to the Church family, inscribed: "Underneath are deposited the remains of four infant children of John and Mary Church. Also of Mary their daughter, who died the 13th of January, 1785, aged 19. Of the said Mary Church, who died the 29th of December, 1799, aged 67. Also of the said John Church, who died the 16 day of June, 1814, aged 69. Also of Richard William Ellis, of Arundel, in the county of Sussex, and since of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, late an officer in the 14th Light Dragoons, who departed this life on the 23rd of September, 1831, aged 43 years, leaving his widow, the grand-daughter of the said John Church." "To the memory of John Church Morrice, grandson of the above-named John Church, who died 23rd April, 1833, aged 31. Also of Samuel Church, of Ffrwdgrech, Esquire, son of the above-named John Church, died May 1st, 1845, aged 71." "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Morrice, of Ffrwdgrech, in this county, widow of William Morrice, Esquire, of Cardiff, in the county of Glamorgan, whose remains are interred in Cardiff Church; daughter of John Church and Mary his wife, of Ffrwdgrech; mother of John Church Morrice, Esq., and sister of Samuel Church, Esq., of Ffrwdgrech. This venerable and excellent Christian departed this life the 18th day of May, 1846, in the 77th year of her age."

Of the Awbrey family there are several monumental records, and among them the following: Phœbe, wife of George Awbrey, of this town, saddler, who died — December, 1775, aged 43; Mary, daughter of George Awbrey, saddler, died August 29, 1795, and other children; George, eldest son of George and Mary Awbrey, drowned whilst bathing in the river Usk, June 30, 1815, aged 8 years; likewise of Joseph Michael, their second son, who died in Vittoria in Spain, March 19, 1836, aged 27 years." He was an amiable and highly talented young man, whose premature death caused deep sorrow to his surviving relatives. One stone has this inscription: "Underneath are deposited the remains of Mary, wife of George Awbrey, of this town. Unassuming piety and a meek deportment marked her walk through life. During a series of trying dispensations her submission was exemplary, and in her last illness she retained a serenity of mind seldom witnessed. As a wife and mother she excelled. Of her children only one daughter remains to lament the loss of such an endeared parent. She resigned her gentle spirit to God Oct. 12, 1842, aged 77 years."

There is a substantial tomb, near to the small door, to the memory of "John Lloyd, gent., of Gwerllwyn Cottage, in the parish of Dowlais . . . who was a native of Maesmynis in this county, and was engaged in an extensive trade as jeweller and silversmith in this town upwards of 30 years. . . . He died April 18, 1854, aged 67." There are stones, also, to Elizabeth, wife of Rees Lloyd, of The Wharf in this town, gent., who died May 19, 1808, aged 27; to Rces, their infant son, and to Rees Lloyd their second son, who died 28 May, 1831, aged 29 years. Near to this is a substantial tomb recording the deaths of several members of the Link family, to whose memory there are also some slabs in Llanfaes Church.

Of Hughes, the printer's family, there are several well-kept memorials. H. Hughes, printer, died June 14, 1794, aged 39. Elizabeth, his daughter, died April 14, 1795, aged 8; four other children died in infancy. Also of Ann, widow of Henry Hughes, she died March 26, 1821, aged 75. Henry Hughes, jun., of Brecon, printer; he died April 15, 1820, aged 39; also of his two sons, who died in infancy. Also of William, son of the above-named H. Hughes; he died July 30, 1829, aged 8 years.

There is a monument inscribed: "Here lieth in certain hope of the life to come, Anne Sophia Lucas, daughter of the late Henry Lucas, M.D., of this town; she died April 9, 1854." Dr. Lucas was buried in the Brecon Cemetery.

Some other stones noticed were "David Morgan, late of this town, chandler, who died January 26, 1807, aged 48 years." He was a Freemason, and for some time secretary of the Brecknock Lodge; his monument was restored in 1907 by the Brecknock Lodge of Freemasons. Another member of this craft was "Samuel Campion, upwards of 25 years organist of St. Mary's in this town, who died 26th September, 1816, aged 52." "Mrs. Reeve, widow of John Reeve, Esq., of Whitley, near Reading, who died January 3, 1852, aged 75 years." On a tomb underneath one of the yew trees, "Rest the remains of two children of Clement and Mary Anne Ekin," who died in 1821 and 1833; "the beloved father of the above-named children was formerly one of the Coroners for the county. He died at Barbadoes in the West Indies July 16, 1832, aged 42, to which place he accompanied his regiment, the 93rd Highlanders, as surgeon." A representative of this family is still living in Brecon. "Here rest the remains of William Williams, Esq., of this town, who died Dec. —, 1821, in the 75th year of his age"; also of Priscilla, his wife, who died May 20, 1834, aged 78; Jane, widow of Thomas Vaughan, late of Chancefield in this county, who died Nov. 22, 1815, aged 79; also of John, son of Abel Powell (maltster), of Brecon, who died Oct. 6, 1821, aged 17; also to several of the Powells of Vennyfach (1809 to 1835); to several of the Phillipses of The Bull Inn (1798-1838); Lewises, butchers (1815 to 1832); tomb to "Llewellyn Jones, late of the New Greyhound, in the





PRIORY CHURCH AT BRECKNOCK—LOOKING WEST.

*(From Photograph by Mr. Reg. Wilkinson )*



FONT AT PRIORY.



THE PRIORY.

*(From an old Print.)*







parish of St. David's, Breeon, who died April 20, 1828, aged 75; Jane, his wife, died Feb. 13, 1834, aged 70; William Jones, son, died April 10, 1836, aged 33, leaving a wife and five children to deplore the loss of an affectionate husband and father. Also of Herbert Edwin, grandson of the late William Jones and 4th son of Edwin and Jane Evans, of Bowen Terrace, Breeon, who died April 11, 1884, aged 20 years." This family is now represented by the Misses Jones, of Bowen Terrace, who still own the New Greyhound and other property in Llanfaes.

Powells, braziers, are represented by several sepulchral stones bearing dates between 1807 and 1830; one of this family was a clothier and tanner of the Middle Marsh, Leominster, and his son died in 1843 aged 73, and the latter's wife died July 9, 1850, aged 80; Margaret, wife of David Morgan, of Penlan, died 1855, aged 61, and he died Feb. 8, 1853, aged 65, while David Morgan, jun., of Llanfaes, died Oct. 28, 1888, aged 76. "Underneath lie the remains of Ann Evans, who died the 8th day of September, 1839, aged 81 years—the last 34 of which she lived in the service of Mrs. Maybery. This tomb is erected by Mary, Martha, and Catherine Maybery to perpetuate the memory of a nurse they dearly loved." Memorials are standing to Elizabeth Harding, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Head, of this town, she died in New York, North America, Nov. 9, 1832, aged 13; also of John Wesley, brother of the above, who died in 1839; also of Mary Ann Head, their mother, who died July, 1855, aged 48. To Mary, wife of John Jones, of Penylan in this parish, who died Sept. 10, 1825, aged 40; Stephenses, of Penpont Hamlet (1807-1856); William Gilbert, of The Watton, who died in 1816, aged 73, and other members of this family; Thomas Phillips, of this town, who died Jan. 22nd, 1835, aged 81 years, and several members of the same family, who died between 1790 and 1855.

There is a tomb inside railings near the small door, on which these particulars are engraved: "Sacred to the memory of Ann, wife of Jeffrey Jenkins of this town, she died April 24, 1788, aged 70 years; also of the said Jeffrey Jenkins, he died May 2nd, 1795, aged 75; Mary Jenkins, of this town, she died August 1st, 1795, aged 38. Jane Morgan, widow, sister of the aforementioned, she died Jan. 24, 1820, aged 83."

Close by there is one in "Memory of William Watkins, of this town (buteher), he died Mareh 31, 1826, aged 60; also of Ann, his wife, who died at the age of 81. Elizabeth, wife of James Watkins, of this town, clothier, and daughter of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Lewis, of Llandefaelogfaeh, who died ye 14 day of May, 1807, aged 60; also of the said James Watkins, who died Oct. 14, 1806, aged 60." Thomas James *hatter*, died 1817; John James, *nailler*, died 1849; Thomas James, *carder*, died 1811; Thomas Powell, *currier*, died 1817, aged 78; Roger Prosser, *weaver*, aged 69, died Dec. 13, 1854; Richard Powell, *cordwainer*, died Sept. 4, 1818; John Watkins, *tiler*, died April 18, 1857, aged 93; Mary, wife of Morgan Watkins, *tucker*, died Nov. 1779, aged 55; Frances Powell, *glover*, died Nov. 15, 1720, aged 66; Martha Seadaway, *mantua maker*, died Nov. 22, 1801, aged 20.

Catherine the wife of John Williams (Old Bank), died 4 Feb. 1840, aged 30; John Williams was buried in the Cemetery, having died in 1871. James Pierce, of the Forge, near Breeon, died 15 July, 1785, aged 65; also John Pierce, of the Forge, his son, who died 7th April, 1829, aged 69; and of Elizabeth Herbert, who died Nov. 15, 1856, aged 84 years. Near by is a stone to James Pierce, son of Joseph Pierce, of Belle Vue, Breeon, who died 13 July, 1842, aged 44; also Thomas, son of the said Joseph Pierce, who died in London, June 9, 1846, aged 46. For several years, and down to 1890, some maiden ladies of this name kept a private school at Belle Vue. "Barbara, relict of Thomas Morgan, late rector of Penderyn, died Feb. 1st, 1781, aged 87"; "Margaret, relict of Meredith Jones, died July 30, 1789, aged 79; also Penry, son of Thomas Powell, and grandson of Meredith Penry, of this town, who died January 30, 1797, aged 21"; Evan Winstone, died July 13, 1845, aged 56; Margaret, daughter of Samuel Chureh, of this town, butcher, by Catherine his wife, died Sept. 30, 1786; also Samuel Chureh and his wife, died 1818 and 1825 (?); Thomas Proberts, Holly Bush Cottage, near Breeon, died 12 Feb., 1855, aged 82 years; Bighall Proberts, late of Penywain, Llanthaw, died 5 Mareh, 1821, aged 77; Elizabeth Williams, his daughter, died 11 January, 1891, aged 85.

The Georges have several tombstones. David George, of this town, plasterer, died June 27, 1817, aged 49; Elizabeth, his wife, died 19 Aug., 1891, aged 90; also Watkin, their son, died 6 Aug., 1871, aged 31; Emily Catherine, only child of Aneurin and Elizabeth George, born 9 Jan., 1861, died 25 Feb., 1885; also of the said Elizabeth George, born 12 Aug., 1820, died Mareh 1, 1887; also of Mary Ann Wrightson, second wife of Aneurin George, born 1850, died Mareh, 1891; Arthur Morgan, beloved and only child of Arthur and Gwenllian George, born at Clifton 23 Nov., 1869, died 18 March, 1892; also of Arthur George, born in Breeon 17 Dec., 1837, died in Clifton 16 Dec., 1905.

Near to the George's monuments is a small headstone, having at the top a coat of arms. It is



to the memory of James Howells, who died May 3, 1852, aged 74; Mary, wife of the above, died Jan. 1st, 1840, aged 77; also of James Howells, died 2nd March, 1887, aged 78. The last-named was a hat maker, and probably the last person to carry on the business in Brecon; he was for many years the parish clerk of St. John's parish, and verger; town crier and mace bearer for the Corporation; and also one of the oldest Volunteers of his generation. He was a man held in much esteem in the Borough, as well as by many of the old county families of the district.

"Morgan Price, of this town, maltster, second son of David Price of —, in the Parish of Trallong (?), gent., died 1817, aged 33." Also Mary, wife of Edward Powell, of Trallong, in this county, who died April 14, 1822, aged 82. "Sacred to the memory of Margaret Meredith Blair, wife of Richard Blair, Esq., formerly of the parish of St. Marylebone, London, and lately of Cumberland in Nova Scotia in North America. She was daughter of Mr Evan Bevan, of this town, carpenter, and of Mary his wife. She died in Nova Scotia on the 3rd day of January, 1825, in the 35th year of her age, and was buried here on the 13th of October following." Near to the lych gate is a small stone over the grave of Joan George, aged 100, who died in 1815. William Jones, of the Priory, in this parish, who died 5 Sept., 1777, aged 70; William Jones, late master of the Benevolent School, Brecon, who died Jan. 31, 1821, aged 21 (?); John Pugh, surgeon, died Oct. 20, 1814, aged 72, and his wife Jane, who died in 1823, aged 86; Phœbe, daughter of Penry Winstone, tallow chandler, died April 15, 1831; Penry Winstone, died Sept. 5, 1817, aged 40; Phœbe, wife of Richard Winstone, Brecknock, clothier and grocer, died 22 June, 1824; Walter Winstone, who died May 18, 1833, aged 75, also of Mary his wife, who died Nov. 5, 1853, aged 90.

Morgan Morgans, late of this town, clerk, died May 15, 1815, aged 37; Joanna, wife of the Reverend John Jones, vicar of Llanspyddid, in this county, who departed this life the 20th day of February, 1828, in the 72nd year of her age; also of the said Reverend John Jones, who died on the 19th day of Sept., 1846, aged 80 years. Several stones to the Robertson family—1792-1858; Michael Jones, bookseller, died May 11, 1778, aged 36; Mary Robertson, wife of Howell Williams, of Mount Place, Brecon, died Nov. 26, 1858, aged 76; Thomas Williams, organist, died Aug. 1, 1823, aged 19; William Webb, flour merchant, died 2nd March, 1856, aged 57; also Phœbe, his daughter, relict of the late Evan Jones, who died 4th March, 1889, aged 68; Andrew Maund, builder, who died 24 March, 1803, aged 81; James, his youngest son, died 31st Jan., 1812, aged 37; Elizabeth, wife of Andrew, died 12 Nov., 1816, aged 83 years; Esther, relict of the late Rev William Williams, rector of Llyswen, in the county of Brecon, and daughter of the above-named Andrew and Elizabeth Maund, she died the 19 Nov., 1843, aged 75. "Sacred to the memory of Ann, wife of William Dyke, and daughter of the late David Griffith, of the town of Brecon, she died on the 2nd March, 1851, aged 65; also of the above-named William Dyke, of this town, who departed this life at the Wern farm, in the parish of Nantmel, in the county of Radnor, on the 6th Sept., 1863, aged 66 years. Also of Ann, wife of David Griffiths, of this town, who died 26 Oct., 1809, aged 44. Also of David Griffith, who died 11th Oct., 1810. Here also are deposited the remains of four children of William and Ann Dyke, who died in infancy between Oct., 1829, and Aug., 1833.

In the upper part of the churchyard there are memorials to Margaret, relict of William Dyke, Esq., of the parish of Nantmel, who died at the house of her grandson, Benjamin Dyke, Brecon, Aug. 19, 1849, aged 78; Eliza Catherine, wife of James Watson, Esq., Captain 11th Regiment, died 1839, aged 27; Robert Buck, of the county of Norfolk, died 1838, aged 72; Thomas Batt, of this town, surgeon, 7th Royal Fusiliers, and Coroner for County Brecon, died 13 January, 1848, aged 64; George Harrison, late Barrack Sergeant, Brecon, and formerly Q.M.S. 84th Regt., died Nov. 18, 1850, aged 55; David Thomas, Watton House, Brecon, born 29 July, 1809, died 18 May, 1885, he was a solicitor, Clerk of the Peace for county Brecon, an alderman of the Borough Council, and agent for many years to the Tredegar Breconshire estates; also Julia Sophia, wife of the above, born 30 June, 1815, died 10 May, 1854; Alice, wife of Rees Watkins, formerly of Tymawr, Llanfrynach, died 1839, aged 68; some members of the family of Henry Thomas, *mail coachman* (1855-1857).

There is a tomb here, within railings, to the memory of the father and mother, and other relatives, of John Evan Thomas, the celebrated Breconshire sculptor. The inscriptions read: "This memorial is placed over the grave of Jane Evans, the beloved wife of John Thomas, who died Feb. 7, 1843, aged 53; David, second son of John and Jane Thomas, who died at Hurriah January 14, 1840, aged 25; also of Benjamin, their son, who died in his infancy; John Thomas, of this town, who died October 10, 1857, aged 66; also of Harriet Elizabeth, wife of W. H. Bird and youngest daughter of John and Jane Thomas, she died March 2nd, 1859, aged 31."

Also to William Hier, of this town, solicitor, who died 29 May, 1855, aged 62. His daughter Margaret married Philip Edwards, J.P., of St. John's Villa; he died 25 March, 1902, aged 78, and she died 30th May, 1900, aged 82. Adjoining this is one to Hugh Edwards, who died in 1833, and



others of the same family; and also to the Brace family, viz., Margaret wife of John Brace, and daughter of Cadogan Edwards, of Elormeirch, who died 5 June, 1902, aged 66; Edwin Sidney, her son, died May, 1894, aged 27; John Brace, died Nov., 1841, aged 46, and Ann, his relict, died June, 1855, aged 56.

The Armstrong family is commemorated. "Mary Ann, wife of David Armstrong, of this town, died July 24, 1826, aged 61; David Armstrong, died Sept. 9, 1831; Maria Hughes, their daughter, died 8 Sept., 1889, aged 91. For many years, with her son, Charles Brownlow Hughes, who still lives, she kept the Brecon depot for the sale of the Christian Knowledge Society's publications.

Edward Holl, late of Abergwdy, parish of St. David's, died June 13, 1836, aged 43; William, son of Mathew Kinsey, gent., died Oct. 7, 1768; Marmaduke, another son, died 1799; Elizabeth, wife of Mathew, died 1815, aged 73; Mathew himself died 1821, aged 79; Elizabeth, his daughter, died April 27, 1850, aged 70. This latter tomb is most substantially railed with iron. Near here are memorials to Thomas Baker, coachman of the Hereford and Brecon mail, who died Nov. 22, 1847, aged 57; Winstone, of Bell Inn; Morgans of the same hostel, whose descendants became printers in Brecon and are still represented there; Richard Winstone, tallow chandler, who died 1894, aged 64; Richard Wathen, of the same family, died 1830, aged 75.

#### CONTINUATION OF JONES'S ACCOUNT.

Having now completed a description of the monumental records as they appeared in 1908, we proceed to a continuation of Theophilus Jones's narrative, supplementing it with some later notes.

The gifts and grants to the priory of the Benedictine monks at Brecon, by the lords of Brecon, have been noticed in the first volume, as being in some measure connected with their history and lives; those by individuals still remain to be preserved by the press, and may perhaps with propriety be here introduced, as this fabric anciently formed part of that religious house, though they are no longer part of the revenues of the church.

#### AN ANCIENT REGISTER.

In the time of Bishop Tanner, author or collector of the *Notitia Monastica*, published in 1744, among the papers of Dr. Brewster, of Hereford, was an ancient register of the priory of Brecon. We lament extremely that so valuable a document should have been preserved till the middle of the eighteenth century, until the very period when these remains of antiquity were sought for with the greatest avidity and purchased at high prices, and that it then may perhaps have been applied as directions for parcels or converted into tailor's measures. Dr. Brewster bequeathed his MSS. to the Bodleian library, but the register of the priory of Brecon is not among them. Sir Watkin Williams Wynne has also lately bought the remainder of the Seabright papers, still however the register of Saint John's is missing; the industry of the indefatigable Carte has, in some degree, supplied the loss. In his collections, in the above repository, are a number of benefactions to this house, thrown together, it is true, without any regular arrangement, and most of which have unfortunately no dates. We have, however, endeavoured to introduce them in chronological order, though from the circumstance just mentioned, it has occasioned a good deal of trouble to ascertain the respective periods when they were made, being obliged to refer to the different years in which the attesting witnesses lived.

#### GRANTS TO THE PRIORY.

The first, in point of time, among those grants by which the priory of Brecon was benefited, is from the crown. Henry the First, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, A.D. 1127, which was afterwards confirmed by Pope Honorius the Third, exempted the abbot and convent of Battle, and *the religious cells belonging to them*, from the payment of tolls throughout the kingdom, and gave them all amerciements, goods and chattels of felons, and the trial of offenders within their jurisdiction: this is the true foundation of the privilege which the inhabitants of Llan y wern and other parts of Breconshire have ever since claimed and enjoyed, and not because they are parcels of the duchy of Lancaster, as is generally supposed. The next are three grants of Bernard the Norman, bishop of Saint David's from 1116 to 1149, who surrendered the metropolitan dignity of his church to Canterbury. By the first, he grants to the prior and convent the chapel of *Saint Haellide* (Saint Alud or Elyned near Slwch) '*ex nostro proprio dono.*' The second is missing, the third confirms the grant of William Revell, in pure and perpetual arms, by the consent of his lord, Bernard Newmarch, of the church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Hay, to the priory of Brecon, and recites that our conqueror was present at the dedication. This document is published by Kennet, in his case of impropriations, and is said to have been extracted from the now lost register before mentioned. The lands with which the church of Hay were probably at the same time endowed by this benefactor are thus



described, 'XV. Acras terre,<sup>1</sup> et duas mansuras videl. Levenathi (Lavenochi, as Kennet) prepositi et Alverici bubulci et totam terram sursum in nemore usque ad divisas de Ewial,<sup>2</sup> et in bosco et in plano, d'edit etiam ecclesie totam decimam totius terre sue de Haia in omnibus rebus et de terra Ivoris,<sup>3</sup> et de Meleniauc,<sup>4</sup> et de omnibus illis qui de joendo Haie tenebant.' The Bishop proceeds to state that Revell also gave to the church the tythes of corn, hay, chickens, calves, lambs, wool, cheese, flax and underwood,<sup>5</sup> together with the rents due from the Welshmen, pannage and cognizance of pleas—and concludes with denouncing excommunication against all or any who should lessen or deprive the church of any of these rights; 'Testes sunt clerici nostri videl. Willielmus Archid. de Kermerthin et Elyas<sup>6</sup> Archid de Brech. Liriencius<sup>7</sup> Clic. Regis Henr. et Bernard. de novo mercatu et Ric<sup>8</sup> filius Puncii Valet.'

The next document that occurs is a kind of award by Robert de Betune, prior of Llanton, elected and consecrated Bishop of Hereford in 1131, who died in 1148, upon a dispute, referred to him with the approbation and under the Pope's authority, between the prior and convent of Brecon, and the abbot and monks of Gloucester, by which he directs that in consideration of the brothers of Brecon relinquishing their claim to the tythes of wool, cheese, lambs and calves, of the demesne of Talgarth (which belonged to them) to the abbot of Gloucester, the latter shall cede to the former the tythes of calves and lambs within the forest of Brecon, reserving to himself (the abbot) the tenths of the chase and the slaughter house<sup>9</sup> at Christmas yearly: 'Hujus rei testes, Gaufr. Decanus, Rad. Archid. Ivo Thesaur. Mag. Nichol William de Stoc. Canonic Herefor. Mag. Gilbert de Ric. Pbr. de Bodenham, Henry de Kilp. et Walter frater ejus, Milo de Michel, Osb. Cler.——Archid. et plures alii.' Strange to tell! the next document has a date. It purports to be made upon the fifth of the calends of July 1152, whereby David Fitzgerald, Bishop of St. David's, at the petition of Ralph the prior and the whole convent, confirms to them the church of Saint Aissilde (Saint Haillide or Saint Alud), granted them by his predecessor, and to increase the charity and devotion of all those who should come annually at the feast of the Virgin Mary, or within three days afterwards, to visit the convent, he granted them certain immunities and pecuniary privileges for thirty days, while going or returning.

The doubtful times soon return, and we are driven to look for the period in which Gilbert Foliott, Bishop of Hereford, lived, to ascertain his confirmation of the grant of the church of Humbre to the prior and monks of Brecon, by Walter del Mans and Agnes, his wife: this Bishop was elected and consecrated in 1162, consequently it must have been in or some short time subsequent to that year.

The same Bishop also confirms the grant of Roger, earl of Hereford, to the priory of Brecon, of the church of Burchull (now written Burghill, and pronounced Burfield, in Herefordshire), and a mill near, or higher up, 'et molendinum quod superius est,' with all the lands and customs thereto belonging. This was made upon a dispute between the prior and convent of Brecon, and the canons of the church of Burghill, but we suspect that there is an error or omission in the MS. from which we copy, and that the grant was from one of the family of Burghill, with the consent of his lord, Roger earl of Hereford, for no such benefaction appears among the charters of this baron.

About the middle of the 12th century are two grants to the religious of this house, by Walterus de Traveleya, or Walter de Travle; by the first he gives them, in pure alms, his mill in the village of Saint Michael, and twelve acres of his land, called Travelia, nearer to the possessions of the monks of Brecon, in that part of the country, 'meum molendinum quod est in villa de sancto Michael cum omni moltura et duodecim acras in terra mea de Traveleya propinquiores terre ipsorum monachorum,' &c. By the second, he confirmed to God, to the blessed Saint John, and to the monks of Brecon, the mill aforesaid, according to the full tenor and purport of his former charter, *J.* the prior of Brecon, who *at length* had received the donor into the fraternity, allowing him, annually, a mark of silver for

<sup>1</sup> Kennet has here introduced the æ, "terræ," erroneously, they wrote terre and ecclesie in those days; therefore Carte is correct in his copy, this is more material than many readers will acknowledge.

<sup>2</sup> Here Kennet has more correctly Ewyas; the parish of Hay joins part of the possessions of the family of Laci, called formerly Ewyas Laci, now a parish only.

<sup>3</sup> Ivonis, as Kennet, we think erroneously.

<sup>4</sup> Terra de Meleniauc. Melinog is a very small and mesne manor, belonging in 1800 to Mr. Wood of Littleton, on the confines of the parishes of Hay and Llanigon, running in a narrow slang nearly north and south and crossing the Wye, where there are some fields, the property of Mr. Wilkins, of Maeslweh, still called Caeau Melinog.

<sup>5</sup> Virgultis, we translate underwood, though in common acceptance it means twigs; Kennet omits lino, flax: it would perhaps be very material to ascertain which copy is correct, but the attempt can never be made.

<sup>6</sup> Brown Willis erroneously calls him Ellas.

<sup>7</sup> Brientius, as Kennet.

<sup>8</sup> Richard Fitzpons—the same who is said to have had a grant of Cantreff bychan from Henry the First, and father of Walter Fitz Richard. Fitzpons was afterwards called Walter de Clifford.

<sup>9</sup> Decimis venationis et occisionis, of venison and the slaughter, i.e. the *Fuwch larder*, or *benevolence* of the Welshmen. Roger, earl of Hereford, will be seen in the former volume, granting the tythes of his larder and provisions, brought to his castles at Hay, &c., to the prior and convent at Brecon.



his life; '*tandem I, prior de Brech. mihi qui in fratrem recepit unam marcam argenti tanquam fratri suo ad vitam meam tantum concessit; ne igitur hec veritas post obitum meum lateat et ne aliquis meorum p hac temporali ac temporali dicte marce concessione mihi tantum facta coram testibus ad hoc vocatis Priorem aut monachos de Brech. vexare presumat sigillum meum duxi apponendum.*' This was again confirmed by his son, Walter de Traveley and attested by R. de Breos, and others.

The attestation of Reginald de Breos fixes the date of this instrument to be between the years 1215 and 1228, when that baron lived. And nearly coeval with these, was one of John le Pichard, who instead of pecuniary or territorial possessions (to comfort the monks in the intervals, and cessation from study and religious exercises) gave them twenty gallons of wine at the feast of Saint John the Evangelist, annually, '*Test. Maltero le Pich. et Sartisone fratre ejus, Rico Walensi, Job persona de Scwelch* (believed to be Scethrog), *John de Curieule, Tho. capellano cum muetis aliis.*'

These benefactions were again followed and confirmed, and additional possessions annexed to the priory, by the descendants of these last named donors, for Roger Picard, who was the eldest son of John le Pichard, with the consent of his wife, Martha (*Matthie uxoris mee*), ratified the gift of his father, of a tenement at Stratdewi. *near the west gate, which is called Boket<sup>1</sup> gate*, containing five perches and a half in length, and in breadth three perches and four feet; he also confirmed his father's grant of two parts of the tythes of Stradewy, in the presence of Mahel, the secular priest, Walter de Travle, Thurstan S—, Ralph de Mans and Hugh de Turbeville. John Picart, another son of the former John, with the consent of his wife, Hawys, gave them twelve pence per annum, charged upon land in the possession of Vincent le Deyne, '*ad sustentationem luminariorum.*' and he also confirmed his father's benefaction of a tenement in Stradewy, and added two parts of all his tythes there and at Llansafreit (Llansaintfraed). These two last deeds are attested by Mathew le Bret, Hugh de Cluna and Robert the clerk, which nearly ascertains their dates, for Hugh de Cluna was archdeacon of Saint David's from 1200 to 1232, consequently they must have been executed during that period, probably about 1215 or 1220.

Of nearly the same date as those of John le Pichard, are three grants from a benefactor of the name of Torel. This name is written Tirell in one copy of the roll of Battle Abbey; Torvile in another and by Du-Chesne, in the appendix to his collection of the historians of Normandy, Torell, where he is mentioned as one of the companions of William the Conqueror, in his expedition to England; he is also called Torcell in Domesday Book; the first of the name, after the conquest, probably came down with Bernard Newmarch and settled in Bruneshope, now Brinshope, in Herefordshire, where they had large possessions, some of which have since descended to the Danseys. By the first charter, Ralph de Torel, with the consent of his son and heir, Ralph de Torel, for the health of his soul and the souls of his father, William Torel, his (the donor's) wife Joan, and for the health of the souls of *all his ancestors and predecessors<sup>2</sup>*, grants to God, to Holy Saint John, to the prior of Brecon, and to the whole convent serving God there, in pure alms, '*unum messuagium cum omnibus pertinenciis quod jacet juxta regalem viam et extendit in longitudine de la Lidesdale ad semitam que tendit versus ecclesiam de Bruness juxta rivulum qui descendit de Brenihesoure et etiam illum rivulum, concedo illis ut adjacet predicto messuagio et extendit se in latitudine a via regali usque ad Gardinum meum de Holmedewe et duos pedes infra fossatum gardini mei sc. in summitate Tenend et habend, &c. concedo etiam dictis priori et toti conventui q omnes homines sui habeant liberos exitus et reditus in sua terra et in omnibus terris meis sine contradictione.*' &c. By the second charter he granted them a spot of ground, being part of his lands at Brunehope, being in length sixty and in breadth forty feet, near Geoffrey de la Lidesdale's orchard, for the purpose of building a barn upon it. And by the third charter, if not a mere confirmation of the first, he grants a messuage or tillage, with its appurtenance, in his ville or township of Brunehope, being of equal breadth with Geoffrey of Lidesdale's garden, and in length with his own at Holmedewe. One of the witnesses to the second charter was "Gilberto Talebot."

This Gilbert Talbot appears very opportunely as a witness to this instrument, for without his assistance we should have been at a loss to ascertain anything like a date to it; he was the son of Geoffry Talbot, who fortified Hereford castle for Maud the empress; Gilbert held a knight's fee at Linton, in Herefordshire, under Robert of Ewyas, 12th Henry the second, A.D. 1166, but as Ralph

<sup>1</sup> In another Boglek, perhaps Bwlch: from the confused manner in which lands are described here and elsewhere, and from the horrid disfigurations of the names of places by the monks, it is difficult to ascertain their locality, but from this and several other documents already seen, or which will be hereafter noticed, we do not conceive it to be an extraordinary stretch of conjecture, if we place the Villa Monachorum near the site of the hitherto neglected Gaer, in Cwindu, and the capella Sancti Johannis de Stradewi, (which will occur by and by) where the present chapel of Tretower stands.

<sup>2</sup> This we would conceive to be driving a pretty tolerable bargain with Heaven, but it will be hereafter seen, that a pious benefactor to this church has contrived to demand still higher terms for lands of less extent.



Torell,<sup>1</sup> together with William de Breos and Maud, his wife, are witnesses to one of Walter de Traveleia's charters, this grant must have been made about the year 1190, when de Breos was in favour at court, and in the splendour and meridian of his glory.

A BASKERVILLE ONE OF THE BENEFACTORS.

About the same period the name of Baskerville appears conspicuous on the roll of benefactors to the convent of Brecon. The first in the M.S. pedigrees of this family is Sir Ralph Baskerville, who is said to have married Joan, the daughter of Rhydderch le gross of Arcop or Arcopp, whereupon he settled in Herefordshire, and Sir Ralph Baskerville, his grandson, marrying Sibil, one of the daughters of Adam de la Port, had with her a manor, lordship, and ample possessions in and about Eardisley and Willersley, where they built a castle, or rather castellated mansion, wherein the elder branch of the family resided, until the middle or latter end of the seventeenth century, and from whence they spread by marriages into Aberedw, in Radnorshire, and the neighbourhood in which they still continue.<sup>2</sup> Bernard Newmarch, though he did not think one of the ancestors of this family, who accompanied him in his expedition, of sufficient consequence to rank him among his knights, yet granted him lands near Llandevaillog tre'r graig and on the banks of the Llyfni, in Brecknockshire, for, among the papers from which we are now extracting, we find a Robert or Roger Baskerville (he is called by both names), by a charter, attested by William de Breos and Maud his wife, and Jordan,<sup>3</sup> archdeacon of Brecon, in consideration that the prior and monks will admit his son James into their order, at the intercession of De Breos and his wife, grants them lands, the names of which are so horridly disfigured that we are ashamed to introduce them, but he adds, if he shall not be able to warrant these possessions to them, he will grant them sixty acres of land, '*quinque solidatas terre*,'<sup>4</sup> being part of the lands brought him by his wife on their marriage, situated in the city of Worcester, and then in the tenure of Osbert, the son of Gunnor, and he likewise informs us that he and *his wife*, in full chapter, had *fraternized* with the monks, and that their bodies and such part of their property as ought to remain with or about them in the grave were to be buried there, whether they died in Herefordshire or Breconshire, '*et sciendum est quod Ego et uxor mea suscepimus fraternitatem illius ecclesie in capitulo suo et in die obitus nostri corpora cum substantia que sequi debet ibid sepelienda ubicunque in comitatu Herefordie vel in provincia Breck. nobis contingatur*.'

Ralph, another of this family, about the same period, gave them lands at Bredwardine, by a charter attested by William de Breos and his wife and William de Breos the younger, which he afterwards confirmed by another, in the presence of the elder de Breos and Maud de Saint Valeri, his wife, and of Ralph Abbot of Wigmore. By two more instruments of the same nature, the first attested by William de Oildebeof, then constable of Brecon, and William de Burchull, and the other, which he confirmed by the impression of his seal, before Peter bishop of Saint David's, in the chapter of Brecon, where he presented and caused it to be read before William de Breosa and many others, French, English, and Welsh, clerks and laity, before whom he placed it upon the altar of Saint John; he gave to the convent a messuage, tenement and mill, called Trosdref mill, upon the river Llyfni, with the tolls taken for grinding there, &c., '*meum molendinum de Trosdref cum moltura, &c., et gurgitem et situm suum super Livini*.' This grant was afterwards contested by Nest, the daughter of Griffith and widow of this Ralph Baskerville, but the dispute ended by her recognizing the right of the convent to the mill, discharging them of the arrears of the rent of a mark annually since the death of her husband, and granting them a pound of incense yearly to pray for her soul.

The original grant of Robert or Roger Baskerville was again confirmed by Robert le Wafre, who married Alice, one of his daughters, who describes it by the name of the mill of Llandevillaue, meaning Llandevaillog tre'r graig, in which parish it was situated, and probably on the same spot where it continues to this day. The witnesses are, Reginald de Breusia, Rich. le Bret, John de Waldebeof, Will. *Pictaviensis* or Peyton, Llewelyn son of Madoc, Will. de Burchull, Ralph the porter (*janitor*): and at a later period, though not long subsequent to these grants, Alice de Baskerville gave to the same prior and convent a messuage or tenement, together with a croft, which Adam the smith formerly held under her brother in the village of Bredwardine.

<sup>1</sup> William Torell was sheriff of Herefordshire, 31st Henry Second, 1185, and in the following year. This was probably the father of the grantor. This family were since called Tyrell. A descendent of Ralph Tyrell, is called Sir Roger Tyrell, about one hundred years afterwards, and is described as one of the knights of Edward the First, in 1295, assisting him in his wars with the Welsh.—See Duncumbe's Heref. vol. I. p. 78. We believe the name is now extinct in Herefordshire. There are also two more charters of Ralph Torells' among Carte's MSS. but they are mere confirmations of former grants, and the same witnesses occur as to the two first here noticed.

<sup>2</sup> See *Radnorshire* for this family's pedigree.

<sup>3</sup> He was ousted by Gir. Camb. in 1185, this grant, therefore, must have been prior to this period.

<sup>4</sup> Solidata, from Soldarius, a soldier's pay, twelve acres of land. Vide, *Spelmani Glossarium* sub verbis soldarius solidata et fardella.



In 1163 it appears that there was another dispute in consequence of the different and almost contradictory grants of Bernard Newmarch and his successors between the monks of Gloucester and Brecon, which was compromised, and by a deed, *dated* 3rd November in that year, under the seal of the church of Saint Peter's at Gloucester, the former, by the consent of Hamel their abbot and Walter abbot of Battle, on the other part, acknowledging the right of the monks of Brecon to *the parish church of Melianach*, rendering to the abbot and monks of Gloucester three shillings to be paid them at Saint Peter's church on the feast of Saint Dyonisius, yearly; the same altercations frequently occurred between the monks of Brecon with other ecclesiastical bodies about their possessions in England. One appears to be settled by the award of William de Vere, who was consecrated bishop of Hereford in 1186 and died in 1199, by which he awarded to the prior and convent of Saint John's at Brecon the tythes of Bodenham, claimed by the monks of Hereford; another was settled by the prior of Aeley or Lyre Oeley near Hereford, between the same parties, relative to the tythes of Humbre, and a third by Geoffrey, bishop of Coventry, by which he confirmed to the monks of Brecon a pension of ten shillings annually, from the church of Pattingham, to be paid them by the canons of Landa,<sup>1</sup> the latter of whom had the advowson of that living adjudged to them by the commissioners or delegates of Pope Lucius, 'of happy memory;' so that the church of Brecon seems sometimes to have been inattentive to their rights, or else the pope infringed them, for it will be seen in the former volume that the church of Pattingham itself, with its tythes, and not merely a pension from it, was granted them by Bernard Newmarch.

William de Waldebeof, one of our Breconshire knights, also appears among the benefactors to the priory, as do likewise one or two of the Burghills; whether they were of Herefordshire or Breconshire at the time of their grants is not so clear, as their names do not appear in the M.S. pedigrees preserved in the principality. It should therefore seem that a branch of this family preferred the fat pastures of Siluria to the wild mountains and heaths in Breconshire, though they retained possessions there, and occasionally condescended to partake of the *benevolence of the Welshmen*. William de Waldebeof, above named, by a charter, which, from the witnesses, appears to have been conceded about the middle of the twelfth century, gave them his bosage or underwood appurtenant to the land formerly of Bernard *Unspac*, above the highway leading from Brecon to Aberyscir, attested by William de Breus and Maud his wife, William, his son and heir, Phillip and Walter de Braus; Richard the dean, Stephen the doorkeeper and Ralph his son, Geoffrey the cook, Richard the deacon, Thomas the provost or mayor, and several others.

## GRANTS FROM THE BURCHULL FAMILY.

The first grant by the Burchull family is not among Carte's papers in this collection or at least it has escaped us. Payne de Burchull, who describe himself as a nephew to the original donor, confirms the grant of Hugh his uncle's of 'land in the *ville (villa)* of Saint Michael, adjoining the road leading from Brecon to Llandevaillog and the river called *brunive broc*, in length and in breadth between the lands of Roger, son of Emmerod,<sup>2</sup> and the lands of the said monks.' With the advantage of a perfect topographical knowledge of the country, we are puzzled to ascertain whether these lands were on the banks of the Brân or the Brynieh, whether Llandevaillog faeh or Llandevaillog tre'r graig, Llanvihangel nant brân or Saint Michael Cwmdy, are meant; we should have had no hesitation in deciding that they lay in the latter parish, if the following grants by one of the same family did not prove that they, as well as the monks, had possessions near Benni and the old town of Caerbannau.

By a charter of William de Burchull, which from the witnesses, appears to be about the middle of the thirteenth century, he, with the consent of his wife Edith, gives to the church of Saint John at Brecon, in pure and perpetual alms, five acres of his land at *Benny*, which extend as far as a certain marsh or moor below the high road leading from 'Breken' to Abereskyr, and are in breadth from a river, which is called *Glywdy*, to the land of the said monks, together with the marsh aforesaid. And by another instrument of nearly if not the same time, and by the same William Burchull, who styles himself lord of Benni, after stating that at the petition of himself and his friends, the prior of Brecon had given his (William's) chaplain leave to officiate and say mass for the souls of the deceased in his chapel of Benni, at his own expence, he promises on oath that this permission shall not prejudice the right of the mother church, but that he, his family, and all his tenants at Benni, would

<sup>1</sup> In 18th Edward III. the prior and monks of Landa or Launde priory in Leicestershire, had a grant of the advowson of the church, with the chapel of Pateshall annexed. (Tanner's *Not. Monast.*)

<sup>2</sup> The eldest son of Sir Emerod Turberville was Sir Roger T. The only way we can account for the Burchull's having lands in the neighbourhood of Brecon and Benni is, that they acquired them by intermarriages with the Havards of Pont-wilym. These Burchulls we believe to be a younger branch of the family.



attend there as usual, would fully and freely pay to her all lawful dues, and would obey her mandates and statutes as heretofore they had done.

LE SIRE DE HAGARNEL'S AND OTHER GRANTS.

Another benefactor remains to be noticed who is no longer known in the neighbouring county, and even his possessions there, we have not at this moment been able to ascertain; he was called Le Sire de Hagarnel, and, we presume, came over with the conqueror, though not named in any list of his companions.<sup>1</sup>

In the list of the last duke of Buckingham, lord of Brecon's possessions, is mentioned Upton Hagarnel in Herefordshire, yet we see no Upton in that county but Upton Bishop, which, however, was not, as we conceive, the residence of this family. The name of Richard Hagarnel occurs in one charter only, attested by William de Wolbeth, constable of Brecon, and Robert de Burchull, whereby he gave to the prior and convent an annual pension of twelve pence at the feast of Saint Mary's, in quadragesima, payable by William Prest and his heirs, and also eight bushels of corn to be delivered at Bodeham at Michaelmas, yearly; and in one or two of the instruments before noticed, his daughters describes themselves as the daughters of Sire de Hagarnel, Hagner, le Sire de Hagarnel, Hagnel and Hagurn. Which of their grants are prior in point of time, is not very clear, nor perhaps material, they were certainly very early in the thirteenth century. Maud de Hagarnel gave lands, the description of which defies every attempt at explanation, at least by a Breconshire man; save that from the river or water of Toni's being mentioned, we presume they were somewhere on the banks of the Honddu near Llantoni. Her charters are three, by the first she gives, with the consent of her husband, thirty six acres of arable land, thus divided, eight acres in *leviotreffeld*, eleven acres beyond *le Ruedriche*, near three acres which her sister Maud had granted to the monks to pray for the soul of her brother William and his son and heir, one acre which Robert Trump inclosed, four acres under *Osbne Skwll*, eleven acres lying on the other side of the road leading from *Maghtildeslede* to *Berigtave*, four acres beyond *Maghtildeslede* near Simon's inclosure, and six acres in *Moroslonde*, besides half the long meadow, her part of the broad meadow, and the whole of the meadow called *Horspol*. By the second charter, she gives two acres of land at Re Wielwett and the third part of Simon's inclosure, to hold to the monks of Brecon, in pure alms, towards the support of the poor, and that they might pray for her soul and the souls of her ancestors and successors. And by the third charter she gave two acres by the water of Toni, which Simon the son of G. had inclosed near the well of Redwy and above the well called Berde, with a meadow adjoining that which her sister gave the monks of Brecon, sealed with her seals, the seals of Llewelyn and Idenard, officials, &c., Gerald dean of Brecon, and of the chapter of the same place.

Maud or Matilda de Hagarnel, sister of Margaret, by a charter, which seems to be subsequent to the first above mentioned, and prior to the last of Margaret, gave six acres of land near the water of Toni, with a meadow adjoining and belonging, bounded by the meadow of the prior of Brecon on the one side, and to her sister Margaret's lands on the other, and extending obliquely towards the north as far as the rivulet of Toni and Simon's inclosure, then held under her by Stephen Surdwal<sup>2</sup> for his life, with the reversion in fee to her after his death, '*et ut hec donatio &c., rata sit, &c. cartam meam sigillo meo una cum sigillis Lewelini et Ychenardi officialium, &c. et Gerald decani Brecon teste capitulo Brecon duxi confirmare.*' She also by another charter, by the description of Matildis filia seer le Hagurn, confirmed her sister's grants of lands, without naming them. A few more grants shall be briefly noticed. Peter de Leia, who succeeded David Fitzgerald as bishop of Saint David's in 1176, and died in 1289, gave to God and Saint John's at Brecon, and the monks serving God there, in pure alms, the church of Saint *David de Cwm* (Llandewi'r Cwm near Builth), with its appurtenances.<sup>3</sup> Richard Brett, or as he is called in the document, Bruto, with the consent of his son and heir Robert, gave lands to the monks of Brecon, but without any description further than, 'the lands which were Gilbert's and one acre thereto belonging,' for which he requires a higher price than any one of the other good charitable Christians here named, for he stipulates that it is in consideration of their praying for the souls of his father and mother, for his soul and the soul of his wife, the souls of their

<sup>1</sup> Giraldus Cambrensis, in his itinerary through Breconshire, mentions a soldier of the name of Hagarnel, who after being three days in labour, vomited forth a calf!!!

<sup>2</sup> Stephen de Surdeval was the husband of Maud, and with her consent and the consent of his son William, demised an inclosure to Simon near the water of Toni, at the yearly rent of twelve pence, for seven years, and if he could not warrant the same to him, he was to have in lieu thereof twelve acres in Kilmanawit; witnesses, Walter de Evreus, William de Furcis (or Chaworth) John de Evereus, Roger de Bodeham, Walter de Kiffin, Richard de Grisment, Walter de Mora, Reger sen of Maurice, Richard de Bolegh (Bwlch), Tho. de Boleg. Hugh de Monachis, Walter de Boklynton, master Thomas Brett and many others. (Carte's coll. Bodl.)

<sup>3</sup> From an incomplete instrument in this collection, it appears that the monks of Brecon claimed the tythes, and also a right to pronounce judgment of life and limb throughout the *dominion* of Buallt.



sons and daughters, of his brothers and sisters, and the souls of all his ancestors and successors. William de Mara gave a right of water to a mill at Berrington, through his land of Little Hereford, rendering to him three pounds of wax yearly, for his life. Walter de Ebroc. (or of York) the younger for the love he bore to his lord, William de Breus the younger, and at his request gave twelve acres of land.<sup>1</sup>

Isabella, the daughter of Gilbert and widow of Lawrence, gave lands which are described in as confused and unintelligible a manner, as those of Maud de Hagarnel, and though certainly in Breconshire, yet we can hardly form a guess where they are situated; we shall therefore give them in the original words, '*triginta acras terre quarum sexdecim jacent in uno tenento subter magnam viam que dirigitur a Brech. versus Troscot. hiis limitibus, viz. ex parte australi a dicta via deorsum juxta terram Epi. usq. ad Holgwille,*<sup>2</sup> *et inde juxta rivulum qui vocatur Flur usq. ad locum qui vocatur Bromhul inde secessum juxta locum qui vocatur Gilbardesmore usq. ad dictam magnam viam, quatuordecim vero jacent in uno tenento supra dictam viam continue ita quod ultima earum jacet ultra acram que vocatur Boreseker et pratum unum vocatur Burlimedewe.*' The attestation of this grant by Hugh de Cluna, fixes it between the years 1200 and 1232, probably it was about the year 1210; the donor was perhaps the daughter of Gilbert earl of Clare, who is said in Dugdale, as well as our MS. pedigrees to have married Robert de Breos, though no such name appears among our Brecon lords or their descendants, yet there is a reference to him from the MS. book of Advenæ of Glamorganshire, to that part of Cradoc Fraich-fras's book, which has been missing upwards of two centuries back. We are inclined to think that she was Isabel the wife of William de Breos, or William Gam, who was starved to death at Windsor, and daughter of Richard Clare earl of Hertford, that she married secondly Lawrence Buller, whom she survived, and that these lands were parcel of the possessions of that family, bequeathed to her by her second husband.

There are also some very brief concessions of lands to the priory of Brecon, among which is one of seven acres at Kilmanant, perhaps Cilmaharen in Garthbrenge, by William Peyton, or *Pictaviensis*, as he is therein called; another by Walter de Riffe, the burgess named in one or two of the before mentioned grants as a witness, of an acre of land adjoining Bradfelde, with the consent of his wife Amice; another by William de Bradfelde, of lands in Bradfelde, Petercroft, *Llaneglege*, lands near Mara, Estlege and in Weteroft near the chapel, attested by Walter de Evereus, Richard de Grismont, Thomas de Bolegh and others; and another in the latter end of the twelfth century by Nicholas de Machna, afterwards confirmed by Brian de Machna and Thomas his son, of the tythes of his lands to the church of Bodeham, attested by Henry de Kilpec, *Bernard Fitzhamon*, and others; and likewise of immunities and privileges, as an exemption from tolls throughout the town and vale of Monmouth, by John de Monmouth about the year 1220, in consideration of their prayers for the health of his soul and that of his wife Cicely, the souls of Baderon,<sup>3</sup> his ancestor, Roaps of Monmouth, Gilbert his (the donor's) father, Bertha his mother, Margaret his sister, and of the souls of all his children, and also, in consideration of their keeping an anniversary in the house (or abbey) of Battle and in all cells or priories thereto belonging, to his memory for ever, in like manner as if he had been a monk of that house. These papers also contain several confirmations by the bishops of Saint David's and Hereford, and others of the donations of the pious and the charitable to this church; among them, one about the year 1280, by John, son and heir of Reginald Fitzpeter, of the gift of his grandfather, Peter Fitzherbert, of the churches of Mara, Talgarth, Kethedyn and Llangelew, attested by Roger Pichard, John de Crofte, Sir John le Bret, knight, Roger Gunter and John Poleyn. Another by Ralph, bishop of Hereford, dated 1237, afterwards confirmed by the dean and chapter, of two portions of the tythes of corn and hay in the township of Bruneshope; another by the same bishop of the gift of his predecessors, Gilbert and Giles, of ten shillings a year, charged upon the church of Humbre, a confirmation by the dean and chapter of Hereford of the church of Bodenham, dated 1240; another by the above named bishop, of the church of Byford, given by Walter de Travle, dated 1236; another, in the same year, of the tythes of Berrington and Hopton Wafre, and another of the Advowson of Bodenham in 1237.

#### THE PRIORS OF THE MONASTERY.

Of the priors of this monastery we have but a meagre catalogue, the knowledge of whose names we derive from bishop Tanner's *Notitia*; the first who occurs and who was appointed by Bernard Newmarch, the founder, about the year 1095, was Walter the monk; he was soon afterwards succeeded by Reginald, who in the time of David Fitzgerald, bishop of Saint David (elected in 1152) presented

<sup>1</sup> From the witnesses to this grant it must have been executed circa 1190.

<sup>2</sup> Qu. If not Heol gul,—the narrow lane.

<sup>3</sup> John's grandfather was named Baderon, and was the first of the family who settled in Monmouth, and possessed the castle there. (Coxe's *Monmouthshire*.)



to the living of Llangorse. *I.* occurs as prior in a grant of Walter de Traveleia, about the year 1180. In 1248 Reginald was prior; here there is a very considerable hiatus until 1411, when John Hekington was elected, resigned the same year, and John Becke was appointed in his room; in 1426 John Burgrove was elected, who died in 1434 and was succeeded by William Walter, after whom came Thomas Falding, who was prior in 1487, and was followed again by William Rethime, who resigned in 1497, when John Lewis was chosen, who also resigned in 1499, and was succeeded by William Westfield who in 1502 was raised to the dignity of Abbot of Battle; his successor was Thomas Redyng or Thomas of Reading, who in 1505 demised the tythes of Berrington to Roger Parsons and Matilda his wife for seventy years, and in 1521, two messuages in the same parish to William Rowbery.<sup>1</sup>

Robert Salder, sometimes called Salden and Halden, concludes the list: according to Tanner's *Notitia*, he surrendered the priory to Henry the Eighth in 1537, and had a pension of sixteen pounds per annum for life assigned him by that monarch, at which time the possessions of this house were valued at 112*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* according to Dugdale, 134*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* as Speed.

#### AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAST PRIOR AND FIRST VICAR.

An agreement between this prior and the vicar of Brecon is perserved in the Register of the Bishop of Saint David's, and is as follows:—

Be it known to all that been now and shall come hereafter, which shall hear, see or read, these presents that Robert Salder, prior of the house or priory of Saint John the Evangelist of Brecknock, in the diocese of Saint David's, and the whole convent of the same place, of the one party, and Sir Thomas ap Jeuan<sup>2</sup> Grogo, vicar of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist aforesaid, in Brecknock, of the other party, have made a final peace, end, translation and composition, real, through the assent and consent of *their ordinary*, and of all other having or pretending to have any right title or interest in this behalf for the said parties and successor for ever more, by such covenants and agreements as hereafter particularly followeth, that is to say, that the aforesaid Robert Salder and the said convent of their own express assent and consent have bounden themselves and their successors under their conventual seal to the said Sir Thomas, vicar and his successors for ever, and the aforesaid Thomas hath bounden himself and his successors likewise unto them and their successors under his seal for the true keeping of all the singular articles and covenants hereafter ensuing. First, the said prior and convent willeth and by these presents granteth for them and their successors for ever, that the said Sir Thomas, vicar and his successors there to come, shall have all manner of tithes, offerings, emoluments, longing or appertaining to the aforesaid church of Saint John the Evangelist of Brecknock, with all the chapels annexed unto the aforesaid parish, or to the said prior and convent by reason of the same, except and reserved to themselves all manner of grains, that is to wit, wheat, rye, oats, barley, and also was, with all other offerings that come to the rood sollar within the said church, also they do except all offerings and emoluments done within the monastery of Saint John the Evangelist in Brecknock, and also they do except the chapels of Battle Monkton and Saint Eylet, with all the tythes, offerings and emoluments belonging to them, also they except and reserve to themselves and to their successors the manor and grange of the Poole, with their appurtenances, that is to say, the tyth lamb, cheese, wool and hay, remitting and giving all other tythes growing within the said parish to the aforesaid vicar and his successors for ever more, also they except and reserve all offerings and emoluments done within Saint Lawrence chapel, being within the parish church of Brecknock, from the first even song upon Saint Lawrence eve unto the last even song upon Saint Lawrence day, also that it is agreeably covenanted between the said parties, that the said prior and convent and their successors shall cause all sacraments and sacramentals to be administered within the three aforesaid chapels, and to all the inhabitants and dwellers within the precincts of the aforesaid chapels at all times necessary when they shall be called upon on the proper cost and charges of the said prior and convent and successors, moreover, that it is between the said parties agreed and covenanted that the aforesaid Sir Thomas and his successors shall elect and find a curate to serve and bear cure and charge of the aforesaid prior and convent and their successors of them that dwell within the precinct of the chapel of our lady set within the walls of the town of Brecknock, upon the costs and charges of the said vicar and his successors. In like manner also, the said vicar and his successor shall find bread and wine within the said chapel and parish church at all times necessary, also that it is covenanted that the said vicar and his successors shall have both meat and drink at the said prior's torne messe continually and dayly, unless there be straungers with the said prior, and when there is no straunger, then he to use his said place at the table, the said vicar paying every quarter for his meat and drinke the six shillings and eight pence sterling, also that when it shall please the said vicar to come, he to have his beaver<sup>3</sup> at two of the clock at afternoon, that is to say, a cup of ale at the Buttery Hatch if he demand it, also covenant is, that the said prior and convent shall have all manner of offerings done within the chapel of Saint Nicholas being within the castle of Brecknock, and the said prior and his successors shall find masses to be sung or said within the said chapel according to the old custom there. And also covenant is that the said vicar and his successors shall have no manner of tythe, corn, meal, noither malt of any mill belonging to the said prior or house of Saint John the Evangelist, nevertheless he to have privie tythes of the farmers there at every Easter according to their conscience. In witness whereof, the said parties, hath caused and procured this consent writing to be made tripartite, whereof one part to remain in the custody of the said prior and convent, the second to be in the hands of the said vicar, and the third to be kept and reserved in the register of Saint David's, and to each of them hath put their seals and severally subscribed their hands; and also for the more assurance of the premes, the reverend father and bishop of Saint David ordinary and diocesan of the said parish of Brecknock and the whole chapter of the college church of Saint David giveth their consent and assent ratified, corroborated and confirmed with their seals and writing, given the first of August in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred and twentieth, also it is covenanted that the said prior and convent shall have and enjoy for ever more to them and to their successors the parish church yard of Saint John the Evangelist and all that shall grow therein, with all manner of offerings that shall be done to all images within the precinct of Saint John the Evangelist aforesaid.

<sup>1</sup> Records in the Augmentation Office.

<sup>2</sup> He is called Jenkin by Stephens; this mistake is easily accounted for, the abbreviation of Jeuan or Evan and Jenkin in MSS. in Wales, is nearly if not entirely the same, Thomas ap Evan y Groeg means T. ap E. the Grecian or Greek scholar.

<sup>3</sup> An obsolete word for Beverage.



This deed was not confirmed by bishop Richard Davies and the chapter of Saint David's until 1529, and though it appears to have been then registered by George Arblaster, deputy to Alban Stepney the registrar of the diocese, it does not appear in what is called the book of Episcopal acts of the see until 1575, when it was recorded by the command of bishop Richard Milbourne, on the petition of the before named Meredith Thomas, N. P., in the name of the bailiff, aldermen and common council of Brecon, and of Thomas Wightman (erroneously called Wigstan), then vicar of Brecon; the instrument being then shown to the bishop and left with him under seal<sup>1</sup> of the prior and convent in *green* wax. Soon after the dissolution of the monasteries (38 H. 8th), the bishop of Saint David's obtained a grant from the crown of part of the priory lands, but for some reason or other it was soon afterwards superseded, and the site of the monastery and the lands in the neighbourhood granted to Sir John Price the antiquary, in whose family they continued until sold by one of his descendants: yet from a document in the lord treasurer's remembrancer's office (Rot. 30) we find that in 17th Elizabeth the then bishop of Saint David's made an unsuccessful claim to them.

## CERTIFICATE OF DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM'S BIRTH.

To the history of the Priory at Brecon, Mr. R. W. Banks, in 1900, contributed some additional particulars, preceding them with a copy of a document certifying the birth in the Castle of Brecon of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, the last lord of the Lordship of Brecon, who was attainted for high treason and beheaded in 1521 by Henry VIII. This certificate reads:— We, Thomas Redyng prior of the hows of Saint John the Evangelist withyn the Towne of Breknock in the Marches of Wales and the Convent of the same to our Soverayne lord the Kyng is most honorable counsell do certefye thatoure founder Edward Duc of Buckyngham Erle of Hereford Stafford and Northampton was borne in the Castell of Breknock for said the Wensday the third day of february abowte vij of the cloke in the mornyng the dominical letter beyng then A pon C and yn the yere of owre lord God a thousand cccclxxvij. as more playnly appereth in wrytyng in the begennyng of a boke of David Salter remaynyng withinoure said priorye to be schewed. In witness where off we the said prior and convent to thisoure present wrytyng of certificat have settoure convent seale the secunde day of September in the vjth yere of the reigne ofoure gyde soverayne lord Kyng Harry the viijth." To this was appended the Priory Seal, which Mr. W. de Gray Birch has described as "Exhibiting the eagle of St. John standing regardant on a demi-wheel of Ezekiel."

## THE ANCIENT STREETS AND PLACES.

Brecon Priory is included in a list of monasteries in June, 1536, as being in value of less than £200 a year. No delay took place in annexing its rents and revenues, for in Michaelmas all fell into the hands of the Crown. At the time of its suppression John ap Llewelyn, gentleman, was steward of the Convent's manor and lands in the lordship of Brecon, and held his office under a deed 20th July, 11 Henry VIII., of Thomas Redyng, who is described as the Prior and Rector of the Chapel of St. Mary, Brecon, at a salary of £1 6s. 8d. The first account of the revenue of the late Priory, for the year ending Michaelmas, 28 Henry VIII., was rendered by Thomas Haverford, the collector for the Crown. His total receipts were £165 14s. 11d. It appears from the details of his account that the demesne lands were let on lease by the Court of Augmentation to John ap Rice, gentleman (at a later period Sir John Price, of the Priory, Knight) for a yearly rent of £3 6s. 8d., and the tithes at £11 6s. 8d. The rents of free tenants and tenants at will in the town and suburbs of Brecon amounted to £13 0s. 1d. Fifty-two tenements are described as let at a yearly rent; thirty-one tenants held under leases, many of which were not produced to the collector. The usual term granted by the Convent appears to have been for 70 years; in one case it was for 75 years. Eight tenants held at will. In the majority of cases the name of the tenant and rent payable are only mentioned, The situation of the tenement is occasionally indicated.

The following names of places occur, and it will be interesting to preserve them here. St. Ellan Layne; Bryge Street; Old Port Superior; the highway leading through the gate of the Priory to the Cemetery of the Church of the Holy Rood; Benney's more; Benney's Holme; a tenement lying in width between the garden of the Infirmary of the Priory, and a tenement above the stream of Hothny (Honddu), and in length between the great garden of the Priory by Held, and the common way leading from Brecon to the Priory; stone bridge over Honddu; Avern's Close, extending from the highway from Brecon to Pool; closes called Monkestoke, and a small meadow called Gwerlodglothey Deveydd, with a plot of land called Le Held, extending in length from the Common way to Crekecrusteth. (The Held, often pronounced Yeld, is a name which frequently occurs on the

<sup>1</sup> The seal of this cell was of course that of Battle Abbey, the superior house to which they belonged. The arms, quarterly with Marchell ap Tewdrig, were seen in the jury room at Brecon under the initial of the first list of bailiffs of Brecon.



border, and seems to have been applied to land, often woodland, held with the manor, or appurtenant to a tenement.) A tenement between the Cok garden wall and the wall of the ancient infirmary on one side, and the way leading from Honddu bridge to the church on the other side. Blake medowe, extending from the way leading a le Ponte Willym towards Llandevaelog as far as Castell hyll; tenement in Old Port Superior by the torrent called Mardrell, extending from the common way from the Priory to Bayle Glase; Paynodis Close, situate at Slewdney tenement in le ower old Porte, extending from a small path a le Awmry towards Frogelonde; a tenement near Old Port in le Mill Strett, in length from the highway from Old Port Superior towards Llanddew, and in width from the Priory wood called Held to the stream Honddu. Among the tenancies at will, a "close nye the Raks," and a tenement called "Owten Street" are mentioned.

Thomas ap Ieuan Groke was vicar of the Church of Holy Rood. Two pounds were received as the accustomed rent of the Chapel of St. Nicholas within the Brecon Castle.

#### CHAPELS OF ST. ELYNED AND ST. CATHERINE.

It has been noticed in the former volume that the chapel of Saint Elyned near Slwch being parcel of the possessions of the monastery of Saint John's, fell down about the latter end of the 17th century, and it is now (1800) only a confused heap of stones; besides this there was also an hospitium with a chapel annexed, dedicated to Saint Catherine, adjoining an inclosure converted or intended for a public coal wharf near the Watton turnpike: the chapel stood where the barn, now called the Spital barn, has been erected.<sup>1</sup> When this was an ecclesiastical structure, it appears to have been independent of the priory, and was probably raised at the expense and for the ease and convenience of the bailiff and burgesses of Brecon, though undoubtedly with the permission of one of the early priors, for by the deed (No. II. preserved in the appendix), we see the municipal officers of the borough, among whom is Rees y Cigwr, or the butcher, the father of Hugh Price, founder of Jesus college, appointing a chaplain and conferring a salary for saying mass and doing duty occasionally in this chapel as well as Saint Mary's, and they afterwards, when the building fell into decay, presented the soil, as appears from Hugh Thomas, to Edward Games of Newton, esq., their first recorder, in gratitude for the pains and trouble he took in procuring the charter of Phillip and Mary. The same writer also tells us there was a font then to be seen in or near the barn, and a pair of stone steps that led to a pulpit; that several persons then living remembered yew trees growing in the piece of ground adjoining, called the church yard, and that skulls and other human bones were frequently dug up there: all these vestiges of its former state have now disappeared, and the barn and ground descended to Walter Jeffreys, esq., from his ancestors, one of whom purchased them from the family of Newton.

#### THE CHAPEL OF ST. MARY.

Before we conclude our notice of ecclesiastical structures in this parish, we proceed to the church or chapel of Saint Mary, where little will be found to detain the antiquary. The precise period of the erection of this fabric cannot be ascertained, but a document among Mr. Carte's papers in the Bodleian, from which we have so largely extracted, proves that it was built as early as the latter end of the twelfth or the beginning of the following century, for Mahel le Brett, by charter under his seal, and attested by Walter de Traveleia, William and Ralph le Bret, Rowland Haket or Hakluet and Walter de Bodenham, who were all of Herefordshire, or that part of Breconshire bordering on Herefordshire, and who lived about this time, gave in pure and perpetual alms to the church of *Saint Mary*, in Brecon, an annual pension of twelve pence, charged upon land near the town of Brecon, which Hugh de turba Villa (or Tuberville) gave to the donor's brother, to be applied towards purchasing a taper to burn there during the celebration of mass for the souls of this benefactor, his wife and children. The present steeple, which is about ninety feet in height, was built in the reign of Henry the Eighth; it has a peal of eight musical bells, cast by Rudhall of Gloucester, the treble being the gift of the late Mr. Thomas Lloyd of Brecon, uncle to the late Mrs. John Bullock Lloyd. The body of the church, which we think was rebuilt at the same time, though the steeple only is mentioned in the MS. referred to, consists of two aisles, and on the north east is the shoemakers chapel, from which is a door into the vestry, but since the erection of houses close to the windows, both these places are become so dark, that the want of room alone compels the inhabitants to occupy the seats in the one, and the business of the parish, formerly transacted in the other, is now conducted in the town hall.

#### THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND ECCLESIASTICAL COURT.

The principal entrance into the church is under part of the gallery, in which an organ was placed about the years 1796 or 1798, and under the southern door, the ecclesiastical consistory

<sup>1</sup> This spot in 1908 is known as the building yard of Messrs. Jenkins in the Watton.



court for the archdeaconry of Brecon is held once a month. This part of the building was divided from the other where divine service is performed, by a slight partition and railing, about the year 1690, to prevent (as was alleged) the country people who attended the court for appointing church-wardens from strolling into the church and stealing the prayer books; this division has been again repaired and improved by the addition of lath, plaister and whitelime, which preclude the cold winds, and as the floor is considerably lower than the street at the northern entrance, which with other causes, occasioned a considerable moisture or sweating of the flag stones in damp weather, in 1805 they were taken up, the aisles boarded and two buzaglos placed there, partly at the expense of the parish, but principally of the Reverend Richard Davies, archdeacon of Brecon, the vicar, who likewise erected several new seats in the chancel, but the church is still too small for the number of inhabitants, and several families in the place are destitute of pews.

When these alterations were made, although no persons have been buried here within the memory of man, nor does even tradition recognize an interment within this fabric, two stones were removed which were evidently sepulchral, perhaps they covered the graves of two of the vicars of Saint Mary's; they were upwards of six feet in length, and in shape a parallelogram, widening however at one end, and on one of them a small cross was sculptured, as if merely to intimate that it had once been sacred to the memory of a christian, for the inscription, if such there had been, was worn out, though there seemed to be some slight traces of figures remaining, like those formerly seen, wherein brass lines were inserted. In the wall of the northern aisle are some marble tablets, on which are inscribed the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's creed, and the Ten Commandments, presented by Mr. Walker of Newton.

## TABLE OF BENEFACTIONS.

In the wall of the chancel are two tables recording all the benefactions to this town, as well as to the parish of Saint John's, except Mrs. Rodd's; from one of them we learn, that in 1727, the vicarage of Brecon, upon the contribution of £200 by several gentlemen there named, was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and the charitable donations there noticed, are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

1581. Mr. William Evans gave 100*l.* to be lent to five weavers and five tuckers, from three years to three years for ever.

1581. Mr. Peter Body gave a messuage and garden of the yearly rent of two shillings, to the poor; Mr. Lewis Meredith gave a messuage and garden of the like value to the poor; Evan William Jenkin gave forty shillings yearly to the poor." This benefaction is rather irregularly introduced here in point of time, as is also the next of Sir David Williams's, and it is not perfectly correct or explicit; in his will in the register office, proved in 1638, he is also called Evan William, tucker, and he thereby charges his two houses in Heol rydd, with the payment of twenty shillings yearly to the poor, during his son's life time, and after his death, of forty shillings annually for ever.

1612. "Sir David Williams gave forty shillings to the poor and ten shillings for a sermon on Ash Wednesday." His will, which was proved in the commons on the 27th January, 1612, directs that a sermon should be preached in the parish church of Saint John the Evangelist on the day of his funeral annually, for which, the preacher was to have for his pains ten shillings, and that there should be for ever, on that day, disposed to the use of the poor of that parish in bread, forty shillings, with which, among other bequests to charitable uses, he charges the tythes of Gwenddwr, granted to him by the Crown.

1557. "Mr. John Williams gave six pounds per annum to three poor people of Brecon for ever; Mr. Howel Thomas gave twenty shillings per annum to the poor." He was of Cilwhiballt, now generally called Kilwhibarth; his will is in the register office, and was proved in 1623, he hereby charges a burgage, kiln house and curtilages in Saint Mary's ward, devised to his second son, Llewelyn *Powel*, with the payment of the above sum of twenty shillings, to be paid to the bailiff of Brecon on Saint Thomas the Apostle's, annually, for the use of the poor of the town of Brecon.

"Mr. Thomas Davies gave four suits of cloaths to four poor tradesmen at Christmas." By his will, proved in 1635, he bequeaths forty shillings per annum, towards purchasing four suits of cloaths annually for four aged and poor persons, one a tailor, another a shoemaker, another a weaver, and the fourth a tucker, which he charges upon a house in Cantreff-selyff ward.

"Mr. Tobias Williams gave twenty shillings to the poor and ten shillings for a sermon on Candlemas." His will was proved in 1663, he lived in Brecon, and made a considerable fortune there, as a mercer; he was the youngest son of Mr. Daniel Williams, of Abercamlais and brother of Edward Williams of Ffrwdgrech and Richard Williams of Aberbran, to the former of whom he gave lands in Modrydd, chargeable with the payment of ten shillings yearly to an orthodox minister, for a sermon upon Candlemas day, in Saint Mary's chapel, and twenty shillings to the poor annually.

1674. "Edmund Jones (of Buckland) esq. gave a house, stable, yard and out-house, in High Street, Brecon, to trustees, for the purpose of placing out poor boys, of the said borough, apprentices to some manual trade within the same borough, which premises have been lately let at the yearly rent of thirty three pounds, and consists of two houses, next adjoining, on the western side to the street leading to the north west entrance into Saint Mary's church.

1675. Mr. Roger Boulcott gave a yearly rent of seven shillings and six pence for 1,000 years to the poor.

1683. Mr. William Thomas gave fifty pounds, the interest to be paid to the poor annually at Christmas.

1685. Mr. Richard Jones gave forty pounds to purchase lands, the rent to be paid to the poor at Christmas yearly." He was originally of Trostre in Monmouthshire, and steward to the Tredegar family for the Breconshire estate.

<sup>1</sup> Upon this matter Theo. Jones wrote: "I am aware that the insertion of these benefactions here and elsewhere will appear uninteresting to many and perhaps tedious to all, but after mature consideration, I am determined to preserve as many as I can discover: the frauds, concealments and misapplications of these aids to the poor rates, are in some parishes highly culpable and disgraceful." It is equally necessary in this year of grace 1900, to place upon record these benefactions, for within the past few years several well-known charities have ceased to be administered, and many others are misapplied.



1686. "The reverend Rice Powel (the charitable vicar of Boughrood, before named) gave lands, chargeable with twenty pounds annually to settle poor children apprentices, ten pounds for a stock to enable them to set up their trades, and ten pounds for a schoolmaster *to teach poor children to read*.

Mr. William Watkins gave sixteen shillings for two sermons, and twenty four shillings annually for bread to the poor.

1698. "John Waters, esq., gave four pounds annually to eight poor tradesmen." His will was proved in 1699, his father was a clothier and made a large fortune in Brecon in that trade; his son, the benefactor to the poor of Brecon, improved it by marriage with a daughter of Lewis Lloyd of Crickadam, a judge on the North Wales circuit, they left only one daughter, who married Sir Halswell Tynte bart. whose family, in her right, still hold part of the property; by his will, he charges all his real estate with the payment of the bequest to the poor, and directs that it shall be distributed among such poor tradesmen as shall not receive any interest from the money given by Mr. John Williams.

1700. "Mr. Howel Jones gave twenty shillings to clothe four poor people of Saint John's at Christmas yearly." His will was proved in 1670, he was a butcher, and acquired a considerable sum of money in trade, he charges a barn and garden in the Watton with the payment of twenty shillings annually, to be laid out in cloth for four of the most indigent and impotent persons of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist's.

1703. "Mrs. Mary Powel gave an annuity of six pounds, three pounds whereof to put out two apprentices yearly, and the remaining three pounds to six of the poorest house-keepers; widows to be preferred." Her will, by which this legacy was charged upon Tyr John Hugh in Llandevelle, was not proved till 1704.

1710. "Henry Jones, esq. gave ten shillings annually towards clothing two poor people." He was a barrister and second son of the before named Howel Jones, butcher, by his will, proved in 1711, he recites that the premises in the Watton, charged with his father's legacy to the poor, were unfortunately burnt down, he therefore subjects Cae Tabacco and Gerddi Gleision with the payment of the same in perpetuity, as well as with the further sum of ten shillings annually, which he bequeaths for the same charitable purpose.

1712. Mr. Thomas Philips gave fifty pounds, the interest to be distributed yearly to the poor.

1721. William Philips, esq. gave twenty pounds for the same purpose,

1721. Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Catherine Games founded an hospital for twelve poor women, and gave six hundred and twenty pounds to buy lands to endow it.

1721. Mrs. Elizabeth Jeffreys settled an annuity of six pounds; fifty shillings to ten poor men, fifty shillings to ten poor women yearly on Whit-sunday, and twenty shillings for a sermon.

1722. Nicholas Jeffreys, esq. gave one hundred pounds, the interest yearly for the use of the charity school of the blue coat boys.

1724. Mrs. Katherine Games gave three hundred pounds to purchase lands; forty shillings yearly to the charity school for girls, and the remainder to be distributed yearly in bread, at the discretion of her trustees.

These tablets are now fixed upon the wall beneath the tower, and since Theophilus Jones wrote, the following items have been added:—

1726. Matthias Berrow devised an annual rent-charge of 40s. issuing out of certain premises in Mount Street to apprentice poor children.

*Benefactions were made by Queen Anne's Bounty Office to increase the stipend of the Perpetual Curate of St. Mary's in*

1726, of £200.	} These grants were met by similar or larger amounts and were invested in the purchase of the following Bounty lands: Pentwyn and Merdy, in the parish of Llangion; Tyleerwn vach, in the parish of Llanvillo; Penybanc, in the parish of Llanstephan; Rhue isaf, in the parish of Llandefalcy.
1735, of £200.	
1738, of £200.	

1794. Mrs. Mary Williams devised the interest of £100 to be applied annually to the Charity School, Brecon.

1906. Benefaction of £100 from Ecclesiastical Commissioners to meet a local Benefaction of £100 to increase the stipend of the Perpetual Curate of St. Mary's. The total sum (£200) was invested by the Commissioners in India 3 p.c. Stock.

It has been observed upon entering the church, that Saint Mary's in Brecon was as old as the twelfth or thirteenth century, but we are not from hence to conclude (as before hinted), that the present structure is of that early date; from the eastern window of the chancel, which is of what is frequently called the middle gothic, or the gothic of the middle age, and from the general style of architecture in this fabric, it does not appear to have been erected until after the year 1515, or 6 Henry 8th: none of its decorations or pillars have the slightest pretensions to antiquity, nor is there a single description, figure, or monument preserved within its walls.

From the deed, No. II, in the appendix, it appears there were at Saint Mary's, stalls, choir service, or at least a chauntry and an organ, at this time:—"He (the vicar) shall keep his stall secondary in the quere, Sundays and holidays, at Matins's masse and evyne songe within the chappel of our ladie within the saide towne of Brecknocke, and also keepe our ladie masse, daily having sufficient company with him, with pricked songes, else to be excused, also kepe the organes and teache two children limitted by the baylie, their pricked song and plaine songe upon his own cost and charge during the said tyme." By plain song is meant the most ancient species of music heard in Europe before the 11th century, in which all the voices of the singers were in the same notes or tones. pricked song, invented by an Italian monk, Guido Aretini, is literally nothing more than written music, but it is generally applied to harmonic compositions, consisting of parts, in which the principal or leading tunes are assisted or embellished by tasteful airs or accompaniments.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH IN 1847.

Sir Stephen Richard Glynne, Bart., visited this church on the 14th September, 1847, and his description of the building at that period may not be uninteresting. He says: "This is a large church, built of coarse red sand-stone, and somewhat irregular in form. It has a nave and chancel, with south aisle running parallel with both; a chapel on the north of the nave; north and south porches; and lofty plain tower at the west end of the nave. There are various styles. The tower is late Third Pointed, Embattled, and having an octagonal stair-turret. The belfry windows of three



lights, and a large west window of five. There is no west door, and the arch opening from the tower to the nave is lofty and elegantly moulded, but without shafts. The interior is much encumbered with pews and galleries, which render it very dark, and the west gallery being advanced considerably into the nave, the western arches are much hidden. The nave has an arcade of five wide arches; the arches of the chancel very low, and no chancel arch. The three western arches of the nave are wide, of pointed form, with circular pier between them having octagonal capital. The next pier eastward is square, and against it is what has evidently been an altar with stone panneling about it. The two west arches are First Pointed, low and plain, without mouldings, having between them a low circular column with an early capital having the abacus. The next pier eastward marks the division of the chancel, and has an obtuse arched opening. The chancel has two First Pointed arches opening to its aisle, plain and without moulding, the pier circular with octagonal capital. The arcade of this church is low and ungraceful, its division by intervals into three is to be found elsewhere; and though the arches differ slightly they all seem to be First Pointed. Even without the galleries the church would be heavy and gloomy within. The north chapel opens to the nave by two rude First Pointed arches, rising from a low circular column with early capital and abacus, above which is an obtuse-headed niche. The roof of the nave is coved with intersecting ribs. There is a clerestory, and a range of stone corbels runs above the arcade. Some windows are Middle Pointed, that at the east end of the south aisle of three lights, and another on the south side of two lights. Another on the south side has three lancets under a containing arch, a form not uncommon in Herefordshire and parts of South Wales. Over the south door is a square-headed window of two lights, more of Third Pointed character. The east window of the chancel is late Third Pointed, of five lights with transom; to the north and south of it are Middle Pointed ones of two lights, of early character. Under the southern one is a pointed piscina with stone shelf. On the south side of the chancel is another recess in the wall. In the eastern pier of the chancel arcade is a curious small arched recess, set very low down and trefoiled. The north chapel has Middle Pointed windows of two lights, one of which has two trefoil-headed lights within a segmented arch, and sills coming down low. The chancel is pewed quite to the altar rails. The pulpit has stone steps, and a carved sounding board. The north side is closely encumbered with houses, and has very few windows. An organ is in the west gallery." In the year 1857 we read, "All the old houses that touched the edifice have been removed, so that the building is now visible all round. Within, the pews have all been taken away and open seats put in their stead. The piers and mullions of the windows have been repaired, and the interior generally has been put into thoroughly good condition. Under one of the earliest piers of the central aisle was found a large coffin-lid, with a rude cross. This has been imbedded vertically in the east wall of the south porch."

## THE CHURCH IN 1908.

It was about this period (1857) that the church underwent restoration at a cost of £3,300; and seating accommodation made for 1,000 persons—the Incorporated Society for Church Building giving £300 on condition that 550 seats were reserved free for the use of the parishioners. There is a peal of eight bells, and these were restored, and new bell-framing provided, when the tower was repaired in 1894-5, as is recorded by a brass plate over the entrance to the belfry from inside of the church, viz., "The clock in this tower was given and the bells restored in the year 1895 by Colonel John Morgan, Mayor of Brecknock, 1884, 85, 89, 90, 91, 92." The clock here referred to, replaced one which formerly faced the Bulwark and also High Street.

Under the tower, the space is now separated from the nave by a curtain, and used as a vestry for the choir. There is a floreated stone cross erected against the wall, beneath the window, but inscription is missing. On the north wall, near the pulpit, is a stone relating to the George Price Watkins' charity, the inscription being similar to that already noticed in the Priory.

Below, is a brass tablet having this inscription: "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Games, for over 60 years a faithful worshipper in this church, who died December 23, 1906, aged 81. He filled the office of churchwarden from 1884-1886."

The east window is of stained glass, and was erected by the late Col. John Church Pearce, K.H., J.P., "To the memory of John Church Church, of Ffrwdgrech, son of William and Mary Church Pearce, born August xxth, MDCCCXXXIX; died October XIX., MDCCCLVI." In the choir is a brass tablet, "To the Glory of God and in memory of Herbert Williams, M.A., Prebendary of St. David's, and for 32 years vicar of this parish. Born 15th February, 1836, Died 19th November, 1896. This Brass, together with the west window in the Priory Church in the Parish of St. John was erected by his parishioners as a slight token of the love and esteem in which he was held by all classes." There is also one erected by Mr. Councillor John Williams, who was Mayor of Brecon in 1907, inscribed as



follows: "To the Glory of God and in affectionate Remembrance of William Williams who died April 12, 1895, and of Ann his wife, who died November 17, 1879; also of Margaret wife of John Williams, High Street, Brecon, who died September 15, 1895, aged 38. This tablet is erected by John Williams, churchwarden of this parish from 1885 to 1889, to the memory of his beloved parents and wife." The stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer are now affixed to the east wall, each side the east window.

In the south aisle there is a stained glass window "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of John Kirk, of Brecon, born Christmas Day, 1818, died 18th October, 1888." This gentleman was a former churchwarden; he was finance clerk to the Borough Council and also Surveyor to the County Roads Board for Breconshire. He was also identified with many industrial undertakings. With his wife, he lies buried in the Brecon Cemetery. The font is near to the south entrance; the brass water jug was the gift of Councillor John Williams in 1898.

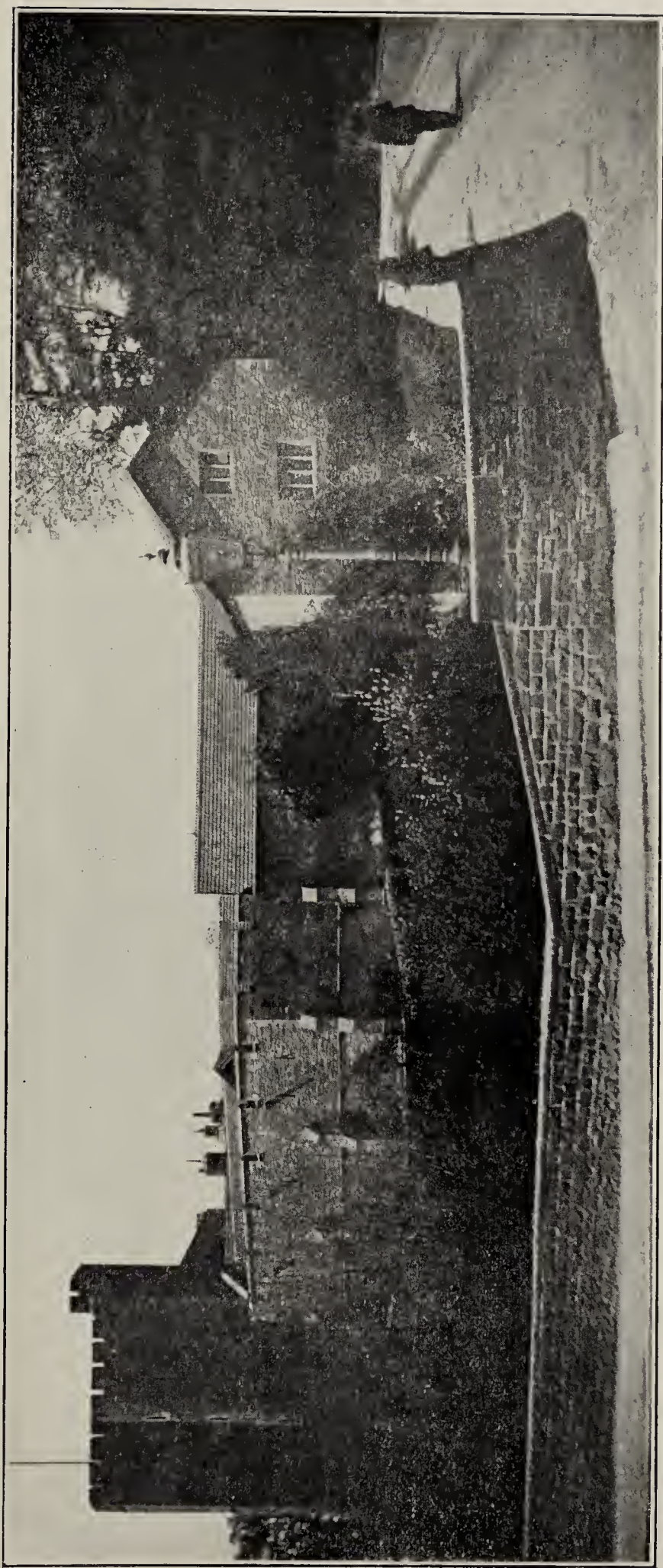
#### THE MODERN BOROUGH.

Brecon is now (1900) governed under the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 (5 and 6 William IV., Cap. 76), and the Corporation consists of a Mayor, four aldermen, and eleven councillors, or 16 members in all; together with a town clerk, medical officer, surveyor, rate collector, and two burgesses as auditors. The Mayor is annually elected on the 9th November at noon, and in each year four councillors retire, but are eligible for election. This body also acts as the sanitary authority. The meetings are held monthly in the Council Chamber of the Guild Hall, and there are also numerous meetings in committee. The first mayor elected under the Municipal Reform Act was Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, appointed in 1836; a list of the other gentlemen who, since that date, have served the same office will be found elsewhere in this work.

A description of the present streets of the borough may be serviceable hereafter. From the top of the Struet, that is from the small gateway entering the grounds of Nythfa, to the bottom of the Watton, ending with the Barracks, the distance is about 1,700 yards. This length is composed of the Struet, High Street, the Bulwark, and the Watton Streets. Half-way through the Struet, there is a bridge crossing the Honddu and this road goes to Pendre, and half-way up Sanders pitch, or Priory Hill, is the road called the Postern, while higher up and opposite the Priory Churchyard is a road leading through Maendu Street to the Cemetery Road and the Avenue Road, off which are Dainter Street and Well Street. Crossing the Struet is a railway viaduct, and to the left is Mount Street, from which there is a lane leading to the top of King Street and Nythfa, and past Greenfield, to Penlan Park and field, through the former of which is a path to the Hay Road near to the old Furnace turnpike gate, and through the latter a path to Ffynnonau Road. From Greenfield there is a road now called Alexandra Road, but formerly known as Lover's Lane, where there have been erected several handsome and commodious villas. This road leads to the top of Free Street, and on to Camden Road, now largely built upon and containing many large residences as well as the Memorial College. From the top of Free Street runs Cerrigcochion Road. The old farm which stood on the left was taken down some thirty years ago, and the turnpike house above "Dead Man's Lane," and opposite to the entrance to Slwch Lane, was also pulled down recently and two handsome houses erected near the site. Along this road also, large houses are being built, and the Intermediate School for Girls has been erected upon the site where the National Eisteddfod held its gathering in 1898. The Struet (from which entrances to George Street and Chapel Street), ends where Castle Street commences, and High Street ends at the small street leading to Lion Street opposite the residence of Dr. Valentine Rees; thence we have the Bulwark until the entrance to the Shire Hall, and here the Watton commences, having on the left Little Free Street and Free Street proper, and lower down the Gas Works Lane, John Street, Charles Street, and a road over the canal bridge.

From High Street, on the left there is Lion Street with Lion Yard, and on the right Bell Lane and Ship Street, leading to Water gate, Kensington, the Promenade, and Llanfaes. Proceeding straight from the top of Ship Street is Wheat Street, having on the left a small street running parallel as far as the Church Steeple with the backs of houses in High Street, and another leading past Ruperra House and the Mansion House to the Bulwark. On the left is St. Michael Street leading down past the Roman Catholic Chapel to Ship Street. Beyond the top of St. Michael Street is Buchingham Place and Glamorgan Street, a residential street having several large houses; this street leads to the top of the Watton near the Shire Hall, and midway and close to the Glamorgan Street Chapel is Cannon Lane leading to the St. Mary's Church. At the bottom of Ship Street is Market Street on the right, and proceeding over the Usk Bridge we come to Llanfaes which extends to the Tarrell Bridge by the Gaol. Along the route is Dinas Road on the left, and two roadways leading to Christ College, and on the right are Silver Street leading to the Gwttws and so on by the





## BRECKNOCK CASTLE AND STONE BRIDGE IN 1907.

*(From a Photograph by Mr. Colwell.)*

This Bridge has since been widened, and the stone parapets removed, at the expense of the Borough Council and private individuals.







river side to the Tarrell Bridge. At the end of Silver Street, there is Walnut Square, so named from a walnut tree which formerly flourished here, and, with the Llanfaes Wesleyan Chapel on the left, we proceed up Newmarch Street until the Games' Almshouses are reached. The main highway of Llanfaes, has Bridge Street, Orchard Street (off which on the right is St. David's Street), and Newgate Street, off which is Ffwdgrech Road, leading to the mansion of that name and elsewhere. Before reaching St. David's Church on the left is Baileyhelig Road, leading to the work-house, opposite to which is a road leading to the public road to Dinas and Abercynrig house and mill, before entering which, on the right is a steep lane leading to Cantref Church.

At the bottom of Castle Street is Market Street, and passing over the bridge (recently widened, so as to admit of footpaths) the Castle road is traversed to The Avenue, with Dainter and Maendu Streets on the right, and two roads leading to Watergate and Kensington on the left; the Avenue joins the Cemetery Road, leading to Battle parish, &c., and a lane running down to the end of the Promenade and on to the Venny fach Road. There is a new road, called St. John's Road, running from the Postern through the Dainter Field, where houses are now being erected, into Dainter Street.

There are numerous public walks. From the Struet, over a small footbridge crossing the Honddu, is a road leading to the Priory Church, and past the Priory Well to the Priory Groves, a public road through which leads to the old iron forge. Passing over the Captain's Walks, a road leads to the Island Fields, and a pathway proceeds by the side of the river for a considerable distance. There is also a roadway leading from the top of Pendre to the Priory Groves. Off Maendu Street is a public way to the well of that name, and beyond the well a pathway leads to the summit of the Crug, a road on the other side of which leads to a road with an exit on to the main road to Builth. A pathway along the river side, past the boat house, leads to the Vennyfach wood, already referred to, and to Vennyfach Rocks. Off the Vennyfach Road, not far from the end of the Promenade, is a disused road which formerly led to the Gaer, and parallel with it is a pathway for some distance through the fields.

Having described the streets as they now are, we proceed to enumerate the few features which characterise them. The main streets of the borough are principally comprised of business premises, with the exception of the upper part of the Struet, the lower part of the Watton, and Llanfaes, where are mainly private dwellings. The Priory Mansion, Buckingham House, and Place (the residence for many years of the Misses Philip Morgan, Miss Gwenllian having been recently elected, under a new Act, the first woman Borough Councillor for Brecon and indeed for all Wales), and Glamorgan Street generally, have an old world appearance, and perhaps reflect the only glory of two centuries ago. On the top of Ship Street, forming part of Mr. George Whitfield's shop, and apparently resting the bulk of it upon his shoulders, is the curious figure of a man, but where this came from, or how it came to be placed where it is, no explanation is at present forthcoming. Lion Street contains a couple of very large houses, notably that occupied by Dr. Valentine Rees, J.P., and which was formerly the residence of Dr. North, and before then the Ives family, where there is a fine entrance hall and old staircase. Immediately opposite this is another old house with a rare oak staircase, viz., the house of Mr. Evan Jones, cabinet maker. On the other side of the Church is a large house once the residence of Mr. Tennyson, a brother of Lord Tennyson, the poet Laureate. Lower down towards the Watton, the house now occupied by Dr. G. P. Francis, was once the residence of Dr. Thomas Lucas, and after him of Dr. Talfourd Jones, both medical men of eminence. Watton Mount, the property of the De Winton family, faces the Captain's Walk, and is the residence of J. A. Jebb, Esq., J.P., a recent high-sheriff. In the Watton, is Watton House, formerly the residence of the celebrated Major Price, and subsequently of the late Ald. David Thomas. In the centre of the town is the Siddons Wine Vaults, and on this house is a tablet recording the fact that it was the birth place of Sarah Siddons, the great actress.

On the hill above the Struet, and overlooking Brecon, is a handsome residence, standing in the midst of extensive grounds, called "Nythfa," built by the late Joseph Richard Cobb, Esq., and now the residence of his son. Not far away in a portion of Penlan Park is "Penbryn," built in 1887, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Best (Mrs. Best was the only daughter and heiress of Walter Maybery, Esq.), and close by is Penlan Farm, once the home farm of the Maybery family. At the end of the park, nestling together close to the Honddu, are several cottages near to the disused iron forge, and these are known as the Forge Cottages.

Of public monuments, there are but three. The statue to the Duke of Wellington, railed off on the Bulwark, is by John Evan Thomas, the Breconshire sculptor, and presented to the town by his relatives. Opposite Lloyds Bank is the Games drinking fountain, presented to the borough by Alderman William Games, a former Alderman and Mayor; he was a Solicitor. And near to the



Shire Hall, and facing the Watton, is a cattle drinking trough of granite, erected out of funds left in the hands of King Edward the Seventh's Coronation Sports Committee at Brecon.

It will be proper to mention here that the Captain's Walk beyond the Shire Hall was erected by some French prisoners of war, and the Promenade leading from Honddu iron bridge to the top of the lane leading to Vennyfach was constructed at the expense of the Corporation, the waste lands from the bridge to the steps being given to the Corporation on what is practically a freehold by the late Mr. J. R. Cobb, the lord of the manor, in consideration of a small annual payment and the grounds being laid out and maintained as a public promenade; the other portion was secured from the Great Western Railway Company and others, on favourable terms, so as to complete the scheme.

There are no industries in the town, which for trade mainly depends upon the agricultural prosperity of the district. There was, some 30 years ago, a woollen factory at the Rock and Castle, on the Hay Road, near to the Flour Mill there, but this building was removed and houses substituted. There are two flour mills, one known as the Priory Mill and the other as the Struet Mill. A flannel factory stands at the end of the stone bridge in the Struet, on the Priory side of the Honddu, and there is at the Llanfaes side of the Usk Bridge, a tannery and wool business, from which very large quantities of wool, bought from the farmers, are sent away every year.

The weekly market is held on Friday, to which day it was altered from Saturday, about 1878. The May and November fairs are now held on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays in those months, having been changed by arrangement to those dates. There is also a monthly market for stock on the first Tuesday in each month, and bi-monthly as well as Christmas markets are held. Large numbers of sheep are brought into the markets, and there is a considerable trade done in them.

#### BRECON WATER SUPPLY.

The town is now in possession of an excellent supply of water, brought from the brook above the Ffrwdfrech waterfalls through pipes to a storage reservoir on the Baileyhelig road. But this undertaking was not completed without much delay, difficulty, and great expense. Numerous estimates of the cost were made, not one of which was correct, but it is certain that at least £15,000 have been spent upon construction, repairs, &c., and even then for many years the reservoir was not of any service. There was an alternative scheme to this before the town, in 1864, when the late Mr. J. R. Cobb offered to construct works at his own expense and to sell the water to the Corporation. Previous to the completion of this undertaking, the town got its supply of water from numerous public and private wells; and among those in general use were the Maendu Well, which at one period was used to fill the moat surrounding the Brecknock Castle; The Priory Well; one near the street now called "Well Street"; another still visible in the Postern near the bed of the Honddu, and the steps leading down to which are still to be seen. This well was considered of so much importance that when powers were sought to take land for the Neath and Brecon Railway Company, a special clause was inserted to protect it should it be decided to purchase; and there was also the St. David's Well near the Brecon Workhouse. Besides these, there was the supply from the Honddu, pumped through the old engine house up to the reservoir near to the Priory Well. Of these various supplies, however, none remain in use except the Maendu, Priory, and St. David's Well, and all these still give out an abundant supply of pure water. The whole of the capital borrowed to instal the present supply of water was paid off about 1904, so that the undertaking is now a source of revenue to the ratepayers.

#### THE MARKETS OF THE BOROUGH.

A scheme for building the Markets House was inaugurated in 1838, when a number of representative men agreed to contribute money towards the object. An Act was applied for, and the building proceeded with in 1839-41, but the Council of the Borough appears to have delegated their powers of supervision to a Committee, which got into difficulties with the undertaking. After considerable sums had been borrowed and expended, the Council in 1840 handed over the title deeds of the Corporation property to the Solicitor of Miss Sarah Edith Payne, together with three debentures, for £500 each on tolls of the new building. The market was duly opened on the 4th April, 1840 and it was further extended four years later, after other sums had been borrowed, and some years later we find the liabilities on the Markets to be about £9,000.

Steps were about this time taken to promote a new Markets Act, and in the year 1862 a Company was formed and the Brecon Markets Act passed; and this Company acquired all the markets, tolls, &c., "subject to the payment of the annual sum of £210 to the Corporation." This Company continued to hold the markets and also a new slaughter house which they had built, until the year 1895, when the Corporation acquired them from the late Mr. J. R. Cobb; so that the whole of the market buildings, slaughter house, and tolls, are again vested in the Corporation. It having become



necessary to carry out much needed improvements in the general Market in High Street, and also the cattle and sheep market in Free Street, the Corporation in 1895-1904 borrowed the sum of £10,114 16s. 4d., repayable at periods varying from 60 to 18 years, for this purpose and to cover the cost of purchase. The Free Street Market was much enlarged, and by this means the cattle exhibited for sale were removed from the public streets; but the horse fairs are still held on the streets in Llanfaes. The General Market in High Street has entrances from that street and from Bell Lane, Castle Street and Market Street. At the entrance from High Street have been erected lock-up shops, and beyond them is the commodious hall used for the sale of cheese, butter, poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruit, &c. Towards the erection of this hall, which is used for large assemblies, such as Eisteddfodau, the Brecon Eisteddfod Committees of 1894 and 1897, contributed the sum of £692 10s. 6d., and to commemorate this event a tablet with the following inscription has been erected, "This hall was erected on the site of the Butchers' Stalls and Butter Market, in the Diamond Jubilee year, 1897. William de Winton, J.P., D.L., Mayor; G. Hyatt Williams, Town Clerk; Rhys Davies, Surveyor; The Brecon Eisteddfod Committees of 1894 and 1897 contributed the sum of £692 10s. 6d. towards its erection." The large clock over the entrance to this hall was presented by Col. John Morgan, J.P., D.L., of Bank House, Lion Street. Madame Patti gave a concert in this building, assisted by other artists, for charitable purposes, and was enthusiastically welcomed by a crowded audience.

#### THE GUILD HALL AND ASSEMBLY ROOM.

The town hall and municipal offices are situate in High Street on the site of the old building erected from plans drawn by John Abel, the Herefordshire architect, probably in 1624. Here for many years were held the Great Sessions, and on this spot were given those rigorous sentences peculiar to the administration of the law in those days. In 1638 alterations appear to have been made in the building, for the Great Sessions were in consequence of this held for a term at the "great hall of Newton on the banks of Tarrell." Later, in 1775, the place was rebuilt partly at the expense of the county and borough fund, and restored in 1809 by Sir Charles Morgan, Bart., of Tredegar. This old building had on the ground floor several massive pillars supporting the rooms overhead; and on three sides had archways filled with iron railings. Here was held the corn market, and occasionally farm produce was exposed for sale. Above was a large assembly room with the platform on the High Street end, whilst opposite was a large gallery; beneath and at the rear of which were rooms devoted to the use of the Corporation and the magistrates, for the Borough has its separate commission of the peace, and above these rooms were extensive garrets used at one period for the storage of arms belonging to the military. Below the level of the street there were also extensive cellars. In this building were held the Quarter Sessions, Assizes, and all other county meetings, previous to the erection in 1842 of the present Shire Hall on the Captain's Walks.

#### REBUILT BY COLONEL JOHN MORGAN.

This borough hall had long been considered quite unsuitable to the requirements of the town, and in 1884-5 the question of alterations was debated by the Corporation. After considerable delay, and much diversity of opinion, the Council resolved to borrow £1,200 to carry out the needed improvements. They failed to get the sanction of the Local Government Board to this loan, and matters were at a dead-lock when the late Colonel John Morgan, J.P., and D.L., offered to rebuild the hall from plans prepared by his late brother-in-law, Mr. Brewer, architect, of Cardiff. These extensive alterations cost about £4,000, and were completed in 1889. The main entrance, which had formerly been in Lion Street, was now made from the High Street. On the ground floor were a handsome entrance hall (where was placed the life-size plaster cast of the Prince Consort, made by Thomas, the Breconshire sculptor,) and beyond, a Mayor's parlour, a police court (also used as the Council chamber), and two rooms for the town clerk (with entrance from Lion Street). The whole floor space above was devoted to the assembly room, which was handsomely decorated, the platform being placed at the Lion Street end. Above the stage, and on a level with it, were placed retiring and dressing rooms. The completion of the building, and the liberality of the donor, gave immense satisfaction to the burgesses, and Colonel John Morgan was made a freeman, and presented with a life-size painting of himself in oils by B. S. Marks. This painting, together with another in similar size, and by the same artist, of Dr. James Williams, J.P., presented to him by many admirers, and a smaller one of the late Bishop Lloyd of Bangor, were hung in the assembly room.

In consequence of serious defects in the roof of this building, it was declared unsafe in the year 1906, and, after being closed for over twelve months, the Council secured powers to borrow



the sum of £1,500, and with this money the building was re-roofed, renovated, and heated by hot water; and it is now, in 1908, re-opened for the use of the public.

#### CORPORATION INSIGNIA AND ARMS.

In the entrance hall, there is a very ancient oak chest, as well as the old stocks, and a Corporation measure bearing the following inscription:—"Brecknock in South Wales. Charles Draper, bailiff. Charles Roberts, Towne Clarke. 1673."

Here are kept the insignia of the municipality. They consist of two maces, a Mayor's chain and a corporate seal. The two maces are of silver,  $24\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and have slender shafts and semi-globular heads, surrounded by a rich double banding of fleur-de-lis, so arranged that the upper half forms a eirelet; on the flat top are the royal arms, and these maces probably date from the reign of James I. The Mayor's chain was presented in 1881 by Mr. Lewis Jones, and is of gold, and consists of 20 small knobs or bosses, united by links in short lengths; the pendant badge displays arms, viz: "on a field arg. a mantle of estate qu. doubled ermine." On these bosses are inscribed the names of Mayors who wear the chain, and they are being added to as occasion requires, at the expense of the wearers. The ancient seal, like so many other possessions of the Corporation, is lost, but the modern one is circular and also bears the same arms.

#### KING GEORGE FOURTH AT BRECON.

Within the Council Chamber, affixed to the wall, is a tablet of brass inscribed as below: "Borough of Brecon, 1821. The Rev. Charles Griffith, bailiff. Edward Morgan, Esq., recorder. David Price, Esq., William Williams, Esq., aldermen. Walter Churehey, town clerk. This tablet is erected to record the following testimony of the affectionate and loyal attachment manifested by the Corporation and inhabitants to King George the Fourth on His Majesty's arrival in this Borough, Sept. 13, 1821. 'London, Sept. 25, 1821. Sir,—Previous to His Majesty's departure for Calais I had it in command to express the King's entire satisfaction of your conduct on His Majesty's late visit at Brecon, and to request that you would convey in the manner most agreeable to yourself His Majesty's sense of the loyalty and affection so strongly demonstrated for his person on that occasion by the Corporation and inhabitants of Brecon. I take this opportunity of assuring you of the gratification I feel in conveying His Majesty's most gracious message, and of the high respect and esteem with which I have the honour to be, Your most obedient and most humble servant, GRAVES. The Rev. Charles Griffith, Brecon.' Erected at the expense of Sir Charles Morgan, Baronet."

The chair used by the Mayor or presiding magistrate is of massive oak, and on a brass plate there is this inscription: "Presented to the Mayor and Corporation of Borough of Brecon by the Rev. John Daniel Williams, Headmaster of Christ College, Brecknock, September, 1878."

In the Mayor's Parlour there are many portraits of Mayors of Brecon, and a large board upon which are painted the names of high sheriffs, &c. This was formerly at the mansion house in Brecon, the Brecon residence of the Tredegar family, but it was presented to the Corporation by the Right Hon. Godfrey Charles, 2nd baron and 1st Viscount Tredegar.

#### POLICE FORCE AND BOROUGH GAOLS.

Up to the year 1888, the Borough had its separate police force, and also a borough gaol, but at that date the County took over the Brecon police. For some time, the old gaol in the Postern continued to be used by the County authorities as a lock-up and residence for their police sergeant, and in order to make this efficient for the requirements of the Home Office, the Borough was called upon to spend a considerable sum; hardly, however, had the work been completed, when the authorities in London sanctioned the building of a new County lock-up and sergeant's house on the Captain's Walks adjoining the Shire Hall. This necessitated their relinquishing the old borough prison, and it was thrown useless upon the Borough authorities. After this had been vacant for several years, the Corporation converted the cells into a fire station, and there is now stored there a steam fire engine and other fire extinguishing appliances; and the house is rented to a tenant. The Corporation, previous to 1842, had a gaol in the Street. Older prisons have already been described. His Majesty's Prison is in Newgate Street, and has already been noticed in the Records of Quarter Sessions.

#### THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH.

The freedom of the Borough carries no special privileges, but has been used by the Corporation since the year 1892 to show appreciation of honours secured by Brecknockshire people, or to express gratitude to distinguished persons for favours received. In 1892, the late Sir David Evans, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1891-2, was made a freeman; Col. John Morgan was the next to be



honoured; then Earl Camden in 1893; Lord Tredegar in 1894; Madame Patti in 1896; and Sir Walter Vaughan Morgan, Bart, Lord Mayor of London, in 1906. The roll of freedom is generally bestowed enclosed in a gold casket of some value.

## THE LEET JURY.

About the year 1852, the custom commenced of summoning what was called the Steward of the Leet's Jury to meet on the morning of the Election of Mayor in each year. The minute book does not disclose that this body ever had any useful functions beyond the nomination of constables for certain wards, who were seldom called upon to act, and many of whom would have been unable to perform such duties if requested. The Jury generally commenced and ended their proceedings with wine and biscuits at the Steward's expense, and under the influence of this refreshment occasionally drew up a long list of recommendations to the Council of desirable improvements. This practice was for some years kept up with some show of respectability, but in 1887 an end was put to a custom which had become to some extent a nuisance. The Steward of the Leet, who was the retiring Mayor, held a banquet at one of the hotels, where his friends gathered to partake of his hospitality, and to hear reports of the work of the Council during his year of office. This custom, too, has fallen into abeyance, and it is possible we have seen the end of it.

## THE MADAME PATTI POOR FUND.

This fund was established as a result of concerts given by the great singer, Madame Patti-Nicolini, who afterwards became the Baroness Cederstrom, of Craigynos Castle, Breconshire. In the Corporation books there has been engrossed full particulars as to this charity, the capital sum of which in 1908 amounted to £872. Of this, £650 is invested in the Alexandra Newport Dock 4 per cent. debenture stock, and the balance in Consols. No scheme has been formulated under the supervision of the Charity Commissioners, and the Mayor and Corporation use the income annually as occasion arises in the establishment of soup kitchens.

## THE OTHER BOROUGH CHARITIES.

On the 12th of April, 1904, the Town Clerk (Mr. G. Hyatt Williams) reported, by request of the Council, upon the older charities; and briefly the result of his inquiries was as here given. THE DANYPARK or Mary Powell charity, £6 a year on Danypark farm. £3 of this is annually handed to the Edmund Jones trustees, and the balance of £3 is distributed at each Christmas to the poor in accordance with the bequest. THE CWM CHARITY was created by the will of John Jones of the Cwm in the town of Brecon, who in 1825 left £50, the income of which was annually to be distributed by the Vicar, the Bailiff, and Town Clerk of Brecon among five poor widows residing in St. John's parish. The sum, with accumulated interest, in 1894 was invested in Rhymney 4 per cent Preference Stock, and the five widows receive 8s. each annually. ROGER THOMAS WATKINS' CHARITY is the sum of £200 left in 1857 by a Town Clerk of that name, the interest to be paid annually to a fund collected at Christmas called the Soup Fund. The money is now invested in Pontypridd Waterworks 3½ per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, and the interest is annually paid into Lloyds Bank, and used as required. There are two Rent Charges, £1 on premises in Steeple Lane, and £1 1s. 0d. on Old Borough Police Station. The former is paid by Viscount Tredegar, and the latter by the Corporation, and the money is distributed yearly to 41 poor persons on Christmas eve. THE EDMUND JONES CHARITY is the income derived from the premises now and for some time past occupied by Messrs Heins and Co. near the Town Church, and it is used in conformity with the will.

The Town Clerk reported the following charities as lost to the Corporation: a rent-charge of £3 on Clawdd-y-gaer, upon which no payment had been made since 1860; £2 on premises in Lion Lane; £1 10s. 0d. on house and garden near Captains Walk, the last payments of which on these two were made in 1867; £1 10s. 0d. on premises near the Watton Gate, payment of which appeared to have been made in 1879. In 1873 the late Town Clerk and Ald. Games endeavoured to revive these charities, and in 1886 the Charity Commissioners appointed legal trustees to the Municipal Charities, when further efforts were made to recover possession, but as the Charity Commissioners refused to authorise legal proceedings, when the claims were barred by the statute of limitations, this attempt again failed.

The Charity Trustees' report of 1886, in respect to Clawdd-y-gaer, says: "The rent charge or net annual payment of £3 is charged upon a close of land called Clawdd-y-gaer, in the borough of Brecon, belonging to Joseph Richard Cobb, John J. Williams, the Neath and Brecon Railway Co., and the Brecon Markets Company." In regard to this, it would appear that the late Mr. Cobb



himself distributed this amount to poor persons in the borough, But it will be seen from the foregoing that the Council has lost the administration of about £8 annually.

## TOWN CLERKS OF BRECON.

— Charles Roberts.

1678. William Phillips, appointed on the recommendation of King Charles II. on Aug 30.

1686. David Vaughan, appointed March 24.

1688. Meredith James, appointed (first time) Sept. 23.

1707. David Gwillim, appointed Oct. 17.

1710. Meredith James, appointed (2nd time) October 30.

1718. Thomas James, his son, appointed Sept. 22.

1736. Meredith James, appointed (3rd time) Sept 27.

1738. Thomas James, appointed Oct. 2; resigned 1745.

1745. Lancelot Morgan (his nephew), appointed Oct. 1st.

1753. Thomas Williams, appointed July 16th, 1753.

1754. Robert Williams, appointed Sept. 30 (to Oct., 1807.)

1807. Lancelot Morgan, appointed Oct. 5.

1812. Samuel Church, appointed Oct. 13.

1814. Walter Churchey, appointed Oct. 3.

1840. R. T. Watkins, appointed March 11th (left £200 to the poor of Brecon).

1858. Stephen Bowen Evans (to 1873).

1873. John Williams, of The Struet (to 1887).

1887. G. Hyatt Williams (his son), present holder of the office.

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are schools in Pendre and the Postern; also in Mount Street, and Llanfaes. The two first named were formerly called the National Schools, and were built by the members of the Church of England, and received certain endowments bequeathed by persons interested in education two centuries ago and later. The other two were erected by the Brecon School Board under the Elementary Education Act of 1870. In 1868, school buildings were erected in Lion Street by the Wesleyans, in memory of the late Dr. Coke, and a flourishing school was there carried on until 1890, when the buildings were consumed by fire. Previously there had been a British School in the town, and several private institutions. The first school erected by the School Board was that situate in Llanfaes, but it has been much added to since 1875, when it was publicly opened. The Mount Street Schools were built by the School Board in 1893, and were intended to replace the Wesleyan Schools destroyed by fire. Under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, school buildings were erected for boys on the Cemetery Road in 1901, and for girls on Cerrigochion Road.

## BRECON A MILITARY STATION.

A reference to the monumental stones in the Priory Churchyard, some notes of which will be found on previous pages, shows that for a very considerable period Brecon has been occupied by detachments of various regiments. These men appear to have been quartered in the many public houses in the borough, and occasionally, as necessity arose, in private dwellings. The first barracks, or armoury, was built by Mr. John Maund, who erected several bridges in the county, and Mr. Samuel Hancorn, of Brecon, contracted to build the infantry and cavalry barracks in the Watton from designs made by a Colonel Ord, an officer of the War Office. The older barracks, put up about 1805, and altered eight years later, is recognisable to-day in the red-brick portion. When Brecon was made a military centre in 1873, a decision was come to by which the Government determined to build a large and strongly-constructed keep for the storage of arms and ammunition; this was done in 1879, and the imposing building at the entrance to the barracks also forms accommodation for pay officers, military tailors, &c. In the Watton are located the headquarters of the Breconshire Volunteers, and also their drill room, and on Slwch fields, just beyond Camden Road, the 3rd Battalion (or Breconshire and Radnorshire Militia) the South Wales Borderers has for many years encamped.

## GAS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

The public lighting of Brecon is in the control of a private company, formed in 1856, and this company purchased certain rights held by Messrs. Parry and Jones, who in 1840 secured a concession granted in 1822 by the Town Commissioners to a Mr. Benjamin Broadmeadow, a civil engineer of Gloucester. In 1870 the Company extended its operations, and at the same time its capital to £10,000, and since that date its business has been much developed, and its service to private consumers for purposes of lighting and cooking is now very extensive, and the whole undertaking highly remunerative to its proprietors. In 1890 the late Col. John Morgan obtained a Provisional Order, to instal within the borough electricity, for the purpose of public lighting, &c., and this order, the cost of obtaining which was considerable, he eventually presented to the Corporation, but that body made no use of it, and the period for which the order was granted having lapsed, the concession became valueless. A private individual, however, in the person of Mr. R. W. Phillips, has utilised



the old Castle Mill, and the mill race leading thereto, for the purpose of generating electricity wherewith to light his premises on the top of Castle Street, taking the power from the mill house by means of a wire placed alongside and across the Honddu, and through Chapel Street. The introduction of gas lighting, and of petroleum lamps, put an end to the businesses of tallow chandlers carried on by several reputable families in Brecon, notably the Winstones and the Prices of Bridge Street.

The construction of an extensive system of drainage for the borough occupied the attention of the Brecon Corporation for several years, and several schemes were brought forward at different times, but it was not until the year 1879 that the system now in operation was proceeded with. To commence these works, the engineer for which was Mr. Samuel Harper, C.E., of Merthyr, the Corporation borrowed the sum of £10,000; but a further sum of £530 was subsequently borrowed, and there has also been much expenditure on the works from current rates at varying periods. The scheme was one of downward filtration, and land for the construction of tanks and sewage areas was secured at Brynich between the Canal and river Usk. The contractor was Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Rhys Davies was the resident Engineer in charge of the works.

#### RAILWAYS AND CANALS.

Reference has already been made to the construction of the Canal passing out of Brecon, and the uses to which it has been put. Previous to the year 1859, Brecon, and indeed the whole county, was devoid of railways as we now understand them. Travelling was done on the King's highway by means of coaches, a regular service of which ran from Brecon to London, starting from the Golden Lion and elsewhere in Brecon, and returning at convenient dates; and coaches also traversed other routes. The traders depended upon the road carriers, prominent amongst whom, in their day, were the Messrs. North, whose huge warehouses are still to be seen near the St. Mary's Church at the rear of High Street.

But railways were being brought to the borders of the county, and in 1859 the Brecon and Merthyr Railway scheme was projected, and afterwards constructed at a vast expenditure of money. It was first used for traffic in May, 1863, and its first Brecon station was in the Watton at the end of the Barracks. This Company now runs to Merthyr, Dowlais, and Newport, and links up important railway connections at the latter place and at Merthyr and Bargoed. At its junction at Talylyn, it forms a connection with the Cambrian Railways Company, now traversing the old Mid-Wales Railway route (opened in 1864), and making the mineral springs of Builth, Llanwrtyd, Llangammarch, and Llandrindod, as well as the sea-coast of Aberystwith, Barmouth, &c., easy of access. At Brecon, in the year 1867, the Neath and Brecon Railway was opened for traffic between that town and Neath; this company had its separate station on the top of Mount Street. The railway communication between Brecon, Hay, and Hereford, was projected about 1863, when the late Lady Tredegar cut the first sod in Penlan Park amid much rejoicing. Another route was, however, ultimately decided upon, and the railway never got within four miles of the Park. The working of this railway was eventually taken over under lease by the Midland Railway Company, who also entered into a lease with the Neath and Brecon Railway to work their line between Brecon and Colbren, and so direct from thence to Swansea. These various changes made the location of separate railway stations in the Watton and Mount Street inconvenient not only to the Companies but also to the general public. So eventually a new joint railway station was erected by the Brecon and Merthyr Company on the Camden Road, near to the top of Free Street, and the old stations abandoned. This commodious building was destroyed by fire in the year 1877, but was immediately re-built, and here all passenger traffic is now dealt with, the goods department of the various companies being located in the Watton.

#### THE BRECON CEMETERY.

In the year 1856, in consequence of the overcrowded state of the Priory Church burial ground, parish meetings were held in St. John's and St. Mary's and resolutions adopted in favour of providing a new burial ground for the united parishes, pursuant to the "Burials beyond the Metropolis Act." When the Board had been constituted, considerable difficulty was experienced in procuring a suitable site, but eventually land, part of the Court Farm, the property of the late Sir Charles Morgan, which was placed at the disposal of the Board, was considered suitable, and on the 9th October, 1857, purchased at a cost of £620, being about five acres. Tenders were advertised for building chapels on the site and a suitable substantial boundary wall and entrance gates. Messrs. Griffith and Sons, builders, of the Watton, were successful, and they were paid about £1,500 for these works and also the laying out of the roads and paths and building of the caretaker's lodge. On the 23rd December, 1858, the late Bishop Thirlwall, of St. David's, performed the act of Consecration in the Church of England portion, and he was accompanied by the Rev. A. Hackman (who has only recently, 1908,



resigned the Vicarage of Llyswen) and the Rev. James Newman, curates of St. John and St. Mary; The Rev. Rees Price, Vicar of St. David's; the Rev. J. D. Williams, headmaster of Christ College; and the Rev. Gilbert Harries (afterwards Canon), rector of Llandefaelog; the members of the Board, and others. The sentence of consecration, a document closing by order in Council the burial places in the two parishes, and the petition for consecration, &c., were read, and Bishop Thirlwall delivered an address and pronounced the benediction. The amount of money borrowed by the united parishes was £3,000, and this sum was advanced by the Benefit Societies of Brecon; the debt and interest was cleared about the year 1879.

The Cemetery is most beautifully situated and overlooks the Newton Pool on the river Usk and the old Mansion of Newton. Far away are the everlasting hills,—the Brecknock Beacons,—and behind the Cemetery is the Crug. The present caretaker and sexton, Mr. Powell, succeeded Mr. Herbert a few years ago, and both these men have bestowed much care upon the plants, trees, and flowers with which the grounds are tastefully laid out. Almost at the entrance to the Cemetery, and close to his burial place, the late W. T. Bonnell Bishop, Esq., a well-known solicitor and advocate in the local courts, erected and presented to the Board a sun-dial. It bears this inscription on the face: "The gift of W. T. Bonnell Bishop, Solicitor, June, 1882," and carved below on the stone is "Dysg Gyfrif dy Ddyddiau."

A tombstone, not far from the Price of Queen's Head monument, records the first burial in these terms: "To the memory of Elizabeth Price, late of the Watton, who died December 19, 1858, aged 76, *being the first burial in this Cemetery.*" From this period most of the representatives of well-known families have been buried here, and below we notice them, but it must not be understood that these details are copied from the stones in detail: Mary Rynd, widow of Captain Rynd, of the 93rd Infantry; she died March 28, 1868, aged 91; and also to one of the Bold family, name indistinct, born in 1775 and died in 1863. "Hic Jacit Eliza Marian Maybery (wife), Eleanora Maybery (daughter), Henry Maybery, Esq., Charles Westenhall Maybery (son)," and close by, "Henry Oxenford Maybery, hon. Major 1st Brecknockshire Rifle Vols., died at the Priory, Brecon, 30th July, 1906." Walter Maybery died 29 May, 1862, aged 62, and Diana Middleton Maybery his widow, who died 20 Feb., 1899, aged 63 years. The Maunds, whose ancestors are buried in the Priory Churchyard near the Priory Groves entrance, are here remembered by monuments; Mary daughter of Howell Maund and Anne his wife, who died 25 May, 1863, aged 61, Anne youngest daughter died 21st May, 1883, aged 85, and Elizabeth the eldest died 23 April 1879, aged 85 years; they lived for many years in the Struet in a large house near the Star Inn. Frances Lloyd, wife of John Lloyd of Dinas, Esq., died 6th Jan., 1880; she was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Bold. Martha James, a daughter of Thomas Maybery, Esq., of Brecon, and widow of John James, Esq., of Presteign, died 15th May, 1882, aged 72. Thomas Chandler Perks of Bulwark House, Brecon, died Aug. 20, 1867, aged 42, and Jane his widow who died (and was buried at Glasbury) 19th Dec., 1902, aged 63. Near by are tombs to the memory of John North, M.R.C.S., who died 1884, aged 75, and to several members of his family, viz., Alice Mary his daughter and wife of Capt. Tempest Stone of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and some of their children. Emily Kate daughter of John North and Kimbrey his wife; Edith Marian their daughter and wife of Major F. Stringer, Royal Welsh Fusiliers; and in a line with these one to the memory of Walter Meyrick North, Esq., for 14 years Stipendiary Magistrate of Merthyr Tydfil, who died at Brecon 14th February, 1900, having been born on 26 Nov. 1847. He was a son of Archdeacon North, and nephew of the late Dr. North. On the opposite side of the path: Mary the wife of Rev. Charles Griffith of Glyncelyn, and daughter of Thomas and Marianne Bold, died Feb. 19, 1870, aged 64. Rev. Walter Powell, M.A., formerly incumbent of Llanthew, born Aug. 26, 1795, died 15 Nov., 1862. John Powell, Esq., of Watton House, Brecon, born Dec. 25, 1792, died 24 Jan., 1865; and another to Launcelot Powell, J.P., formerly of Watton Mount and Clydach House, who died at Brecon, Dec. 4, 1884, aged 79, (they were the Powells of Clydach of ironworks fame).

Near by these is a large marble tomb to the memory of Dr. Thomas Prestwood Lucas, whose services to the Brecknock Infirmary and suffering humanity, are affectionately remembered by the oldest inhabitants: "Underneath are buried the mortal remains of Thomas Prestwood Lucas, M.D., of Brecon. The spirit has returned to God who gave it. Born Dec. 16, 1801; he died May 29, 1871. Also in loving memory of Sarah wife of the above, daughter of Alan Ker of Greenock, N.B., who died 13th Dec., 1893, and is buried in St. Luke's Churchyard, Cheetham Hill, Manchester." "Anne, widow of late Evan Winstone, Esq., who died Jan. 14, 1866, and of the Rev. John Jones, vicar of Penbryn, Cardiganshire, who died June, 24, 1878, aged 48 years." The latter was father to Rev. Church Jones, M.A., curate for many years at Brecon, and Vicar of Battle. Many generations of the Winstones are buried in the Priory, and a few of the direct descendants of this ancient family are still resident in the district.



On the same side of the pathway there are costly monuments to the memory of David Hughes, J.P., Banker, of Brecon, who died 25th January, 1882, aged 74 years. He amassed a great fortune, the bulk of which he bequeathed to his nephew, who is thus commemorated on a monument adjoining: "Lieut. Col. John Morgan, J.P., D.L., V.D., Bank House, Brecon, Born 18 March, 1845, died 12 March, 1902. He was twice high sheriff of this county, eight times Mayor, and a most generous benefactor of the town." He is referred to elsewhere in this work. Within railings by the side of these monuments, is a stone inscribed as follows: "Joseph Joseph, F.S.A., and J.P., born 24 Feb., 1825, died 29 Nov., 1890, and of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Hughes of Kilposte, Llandovery, by Mary his wife. She died 28 Dec., 1873, leaving issue one daughter married to James Buckley, of Bryn-y-Caerau, in the county of Carmarthen." This Joseph Joseph was a noted antiquary and collected a valuable library of books and papers, which he bequeathed to the Buckley family. He was a banker and for some years in partnership with David Hughes under the style of Hughes and Joseph; this private bank was subsequently acquired by the Birmingham and District Counties Banking Co. Limited, who built banking premises in the square near to Lloyds Bank (formerly the Old Bank).

Other inscriptions in the Cemetery record the deaths of Charles Francis, J.P., of Vennyfach, died 10 July, 1900, aged 75, and of Anne his wife, who died 19th May, 1883; John Williams, late Town Clerk, died May 27, 1887; Lewis Jones, a former Mayor of Brecon, of Penbryn House, Bulwark, who died 29 Sept., 1894, and of his wife and daughter; John Kirk, the noted County Roads Surveyor, and Finance Clerk of Brecon, who died Oct. 18, 1888, aged 70, and of his wife Elizabeth, who died Aug. 29, 1898, aged 84; Thomas Downes, J.P., died Jan. 18, 1880, and Amelia his wife died 27 Jan., aged 72; Dr. James Williams, County Coroner, &c. (whose death has already been noted in the particulars of the Priory), and of his wife, and close by, his son; the Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., Vicar of Brecon, his wife, and two children (see tablet in Priory Church); John Morgan-Thomas, J.P., of Glyngarth who died 17th Dec., 1902, aged 71, and of his wife Mary, who died 22 Aug., 1898, aged 58; and of his daughter Mary Ann, and John Douglas his 2nd son, a Second Lieutenant in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (46th Regt.), who died from typhoid at the Huts Pembroke Dock, 2nd Dec., 1899, aged 21 years and 6 months. Near this is a marble cross to the memory of "William Morgan-Thomas, chief constable of Breconshire, eldest son of John Morgan-Thomas, J.P., of Glyngarth, Brecon, who died 14th March, 1906, aged 39 years." There is a monument to Captain Armitage, of the 24th Regt., who was adjutant of the Breconshire Volunteers, and died at Tregunter, 10th Dec., 1893, aged 34. Benjamin Jenkins, builder, who established a large timber and building yard on the site of the old church and burial ground in the Watton alluded to elsewhere; he died at his residence "Maesllan," March 16, 1899, aged 43. He re-built several chapels in the town of Brecon. "In memory of Anne Lewis, who died Feb. 23, 1865, aged 64, was upwards of 37 years a faithful and esteemed servant in the service of the Gwynnes, late of Glanbrane, county of Carmarthen." Above this stone is a large granite monument to the Prices of the Queen's Head, some of the male members having been drivers of the coach in the old coaching days; the last recorded William Price, who died in 1891, aged 63, was a member of the Brecon Corporation. At the foot of the steps leading down from the chapels, are many monuments to the Webbs, the Halls, and Merediths, all of whom were connected by marriage and prominent in trade in Brecon and elsewhere. Richard Webb, jeweller, was a J.P. for the borough, and died 27 Sept., 1892, aged 67. The Webbs were millers and flour merchants in a large way of business. Edward King, surgeon dentist, who died suddenly at the Volunteer Camp at Rhosfach on Sunday, July 27, 1873, and his widow, are buried near; as are also John Evans of the Old Bank, Esq., J.P. and D.L., who died at Brecon, 17th May, 1876; his widow died 24th Feb., 1905. He was born at Trecastle, and amassed a great fortune as a banker at Brecon, the bulk of which fell to his nephew David Evans, Esq., J.P., who bought Ffrwdgrech, and died there in 1908. Colonel Arthur Noel Phillips, formerly of Bronllys Castle, born 4th Dec., 1840, died 20th June, 1890; Alderman Cansick, died Dec. 3, 1873, aged 52, and his widow who died 1896, aged 74; John Evans of Mount View, Brecon, Clerk to the Burial Board at Brecon for 40 years; he died 14th June, 1896, aged 81, leaving considerable property to a former clerk, his housekeeper, and others; also Esther Powell, his second wife, died 3rd July, 1889, but his first wife is not recorded on this stone. John Lazenby and his wife, both for 41 years in charge of the County Prison lie buried at the bottom of the Cemetery; he died 23rd Jan., 1892, aged 83, and she died July, 1886, aged 78.

Not far away is a stone to the memory of Capt. Clifton Mogg of the 54th Shropshire Militia who died Feb. 2, 1872, and to his wife; and to David W. J. Thomas, Esq., solicitor, of Ely Cottage, Brecon, Clerk to Guardians and Magistrates, and a Coroner for the County, who died March 8, 1899, and of his wife, Elizabeth Grace, who died 22 Aug., 1888. Florence Mary, wife of H. Edgar Thomas, Esq. (Clerk to the Breconshire County Council and Clerk of the Peace), and a daughter of the late Canon Harries, is buried immediately opposite; she died 27th Oct., 1897. Adjacent are monuments



to the memory of Isaac Davies, J.P., and of his son Henri Williams Davies, who died in 1888 and 1897 respectively; and to the Rev. John Bowen Jones, B.A., minister of the Plough Congregational Church, who died in 1905, and his wife and daughter. Near the top, Battle end, of the Cemetery is a monument recording the virtues and death of Stephen Bowen Evans, attorney and solicitor, who was town clerk of Brecon, clerk to the Board of Health, &c., and who died June 28, 1873; he was only son of the Rev. John Evans, Baptist minister. Opposite this stone is one which commemorates the death of the only centenarian so far buried in this Cemetery, viz., Ann Jones, mother-in-law of Morgan Jones, cabinet maker, Brecon, who died Oct. 29, 1869, aged 100 years and 6 months. Close by is the burial ground of the Trews of Coedmawr, and Brecon, farmers and butchers for several generations in this neighbourhood; and Williams, iron founders, of Brecon; and to Joseph Bass, who made money in the drapery business and retired to Slwch Villa, where he died, leaving an only son William S. Bass, who improved the fortune left him by his father, and died unmarried in 1899, aged 58, leaving his property to distant relatives and to his principal assistant for some years in business; Alderman John Prothero, J.P., at one time a large employer of labour, and owner of considerable house property is buried at this spot, but no monument has yet been raised to his memory. Many of his family connections are buried at Llanfihangel Talyllyn. Another Alderman of the Borough Council, John Morgan, J.P., currier, is buried here; he died 11th June, 1901; his wife is also buried here. Not far distant lies yet another borough Alderman, H. C. Rich, J.P., who died 30th Jan., 1892, aged 72. These three Aldermen served the office of Mayor. On a rough native stone near them is inscribed "Rhys Davies (Llew Llywel), J.P. and surveyor for this Borough, born at Llywel, 18 June, 1844, died at Brecon, 18 March, 1899"; his father and mother's names are also carved on the same stone.

The Rev. David Rowlands, B.A. (Dewi Môn), principal of the Memorial College, Brecon, "bard, preacher, hymn writer" has found a resting place near to Alderman Rich; he died Jan. 6, 1907, having been born March 4, 1836. In another part of the Cemetery lie interred and commemorated by a similar monument, his first wife and his daughter and eldest son, who was a doctor practising at Maesteg, where he died Jan. 19, 1905; near by the latter monument is one to Edwin Poole, editor and publisher, who compiled a history of Brecknockshire, he was a native of Oswestry, and died in High Street, Brecon, April 15, 1895, aged 44. There is also one to Mordecai Jones, Esq., J.P. and D.L., of Morganwg House, who died Aug. 30, 1880, and to his wife who died Jan. 1885; he made a considerable fortune in trade and speculation in coal mines, and was a man of much talent in business. To him was largely due the erection of the Presbyterian Chapel in the Watton, where he was a member for many years prior to his death. There is a monument to "Rev. Charles Griffith, who died March 15th, 1861, aged 61 years;" he laboured for 40 years in the ministry of the gospel, first in Cardiganshire and subsequently at the Plough Chapel, Brecon, and at Mount Zion, Newport, Mon. His widow is also buried here. And to "Rev. Henry Griffiths, for 25 years the zealous pastor of Glamorgan Street Chapel, Brecon, and then for 12 years a district Secretary of the Bible Society; who died 19th March, 1886, aged 61;" this good man deserves to be remembered, if only for the excellent work he did amongst the children of Brecon, irrespective of creed. He was certainly the pioneer in Band of Hope work in Brecon, and died sincerely mourned by the people of the town. Near to one of the Chapels is a large stone monument to the memory of Philip Bright, J.P., a former mayor, and member of the Borough Council, who died at Greenfield, Dec. 16, 1876, aged 53; the inscription also commemorates the death of Robert Bright, who died in 1836, his wife who died in 1861, and Martha, widow of Philip Bright, who died in 1900, aged 79.

#### ST. JOHN'S MISSION CHURCH.

This is situate in the road leading to the Cemetery opposite Fronwen Terrace. Some years ago there was, near to the site of the present Boys' School on that road, a small building used as a Mission House and Sunday School by a gentleman named Prichard. When he died the building was secured by the late Rev. Herbert Williams, and Church of England services, and a Sunday School, were held there. The new church was built by the late David W. J. Thomas, Esq., Ely Cottage, Brecon, and other members of this family, as a memorial to their father, the late David Thomas, Esq., solicitor, and alderman of the Common Council for many years. The builder was Mr. John Griffiths, of Mount Street.

#### BRECON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

On the Camden Road is an imposing building of Gothic design, of native stone with bath dressings. This is the Memorial College belonging to the Independent denomination, and here the students for the ministry in that body are educated under tutors. The College stands in the centre of grounds having an area of about five acres, and cost, including the purchase of land, the sum of £12,000. Besides the residences for the tutors—a Principal, Vice-Principal, and two others—there are



a number of studies and dormitories for the students, a large dining hall, library, the whole building being surmounted by a tower 16 feet square and 100 feet high. Previous to the erection of this building, the work of the College was carried out in the large house known now as the Oddfellows Hall, recently partly destroyed by fire. The foundation stone of the new College was laid on Wednesday, June 12, 1867, by Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., whose son Charles succeeded Mr. W. F. Maitland as member of Parliament for Breconshire. The College was opened in 1869.

One of the tutors of the old College, Mr. Edward Davies, lies buried in the Priory Churchyard at the Groves End, and he was succeeded by a Mr. William Roberts in 1857, who was killed by a passing train at Malvern in 1872. Subsequently, the office of principal was filled by the Rev. John Morris, and the Rev. David Rowlands, B.A. (Dewi Môn), and Mr. William Oliver, M.A., were the professors who assisted him. Upon Dr. Morris's death, he was succeeded as principal by Professor Rowlands, and when he died the Rev. Thomas Lewis, M.A., B.D., was elected principal; and he is assisted in the work of the College by the Rev. Thomas Rees, M.A., Rev. John Evans, B.A., and Rev. Joseph Jones, M.A.

There are several scholarships attached to the institution, viz., the Thomas Scholarship of £20, tenable for one year, and the Rees Scholarship of £20 tenable for two years and open to students in other Congregational Colleges in England and Wales, if natives of South Wales; and three Entrance Scholarships called the "John Jones Scholarships," valued at £10 each. Several talented and eminent Nonconformist ministers have been educated in this institution, many of whom have occupied distinguished positions in the ministry at home and in the Mission field. In the halls of the College are several paintings of men honourably connected with the denomination.

#### NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS.

The Nonconformists have eight chapels within the borough, all of them modern in design and well built. The Wesleyans have two—one in Lion Street with accommodation for 450, and extensive schoolrooms, erected to the memory of Dr. Coke; and the other in Newmarch Street, Llanfaes. This latter was for many years the chapel where Welsh services were held. The Baptists have chapels at Watergate (to seat 400) and Kensington (500); both of these have schoolrooms in addition. The former is the Welsh chapel, but services are mostly conducted in English. The Calvinistic Methodists have a Chapel in Bethel Square, which is the home of the Welsh cause; this is a very large building, having 800 sittings. In the Watton there is a large and imposing building the property of the same denomination, generally known as the Presbyterian Chapel, with English services, and sittings for 550 persons, and also a substantial schoolroom beside. The Congregationalists have also two places of worship: the Plough Chapel in Lion Street and the Chapel in Glamorgan Street. The former is Welsh and has accommodation for 700, and the latter English with sittings for 350. Both have schoolrooms, in addition. The Chapel in the Watton was built in 1866–67, when several members of the old Bethel Chapel resolved to start an English branch of their church; and all the other chapels have been rebuilt within the period 1840–90. For some years there was a burial ground belonging to the Baptists near to Mount Pleasant, where the Pastor's residence now stands. There are several sepulchral monuments still to be seen in the garden there.

#### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

This Chapel, and residence for the priest, are in Wheat Street, and at the corner of a street named St. Michael after the chapel there. There are no documents at Brecon which give the history of this church, but the marriage and baptismal registers go back to the year 1790. In 1818, the County records refer to a Roman Catholic Chapel in Wheat Street at that date, and there is some evidence that services connected with this church were conducted in a private house or private chapel somewhere in Watergate. The present chapel was erected in 1851 and it has been much beautified internally since the Rev. Father Griffiths came into residence. Adjoining the chapel has recently been erected, upon the site of two cottages and gardens, a large assembly room with commodious house parallel with Wheat Street. This serves as a club, where is a reading room, billiard tables, and the like. One of the priests in charge of the Mission was the late Father Havard, one of the Breconshire Havards, some of whom are still connected with the faith here. There are endowments belonging to this chapel, in which Madame Patti-Nicolini was married to Baron Cederström.

#### THE BISHOP'S MEADOW.

About 1884, there were discovered in a field called "The Bishop's Meadow," two field's breadth from Ffynonnau, and near the extremity of the parish of St. John the Evangelist, some bronze implements. They were dug out by some drainers when cutting through the peaty ground. Six of the articles, viz., knife, knife-dagger, two ferrules, and two celts or palstaves, were in the possession



of the Rev. Prebendary Herbert Williams, M.A., of Brecon, and engravings of them appear on page 225 of the 1884 vol. of *The Archæologia Cambrensis*.

#### ANTIQUITIES IN THEO. JONES' TIME.

The town of Brecknock, and the parishes of Saint John's and Saint Mary's, have few antiquities to boast of after the priory and castle have been explored. The wreck of Bannio or Castrum Bonii, the Roman altar, which Hugh Thomas introduced to the attention of the curious, is now no longer seen,—perhaps some savage celtic mason, who was not advanced even to a state of barbarism, about the middle of last century (for until that time it retained its situation under the western gate entering into the priory), equally indifferent about the Romans and their works, may have applied its fragments to such base uses as assisting in the erection of a cottage, or to contribute towards the repairs of a pig's sty.

A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for December 1787, who subscribes 'P. Britannicus,' gives what he calls a draught of the altar dug up at the Gaer in Breconshire. 'The preservation of its inscription (he adds) is almost as *miraculous*, as its vicissitudes are interesting; it was discovered about the latter end of the last century, by a Mr. Philips, whose estate the Gaer then was, but having been afterwards purchased by Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys, he caused it to be laid *as a step to the door of the Priory of Brecon*, and it is probable the whole might have been irrevocably lost had not the ingenious Mr. Hugh Thomas, who made considerable collections for a history of Wales, very fortunately rescued it from oblivion. The draught is among his papers in the British museum, whence the above is sketched.' He then proceeds to combat with success Mr. Harris's conjecture, that the Gaer was Magna, and concludes by stating that this stone was four foot seven by two foot eight. All that relates to the removal of the stone is confusion confounded. Mr. Hugh Thomas's friend, Mr. Phillips, never was possessed of the Gaer; if he had, he was such a lover of antiquities, that Mr. Jeffreys's whole property would have hardly induced him to part with this valuable relic. There is also great reason to believe that the inscription upon it, as here given, is erroneous. Let us hear Hugh Thomas's words, in his MS. essay towards a history of Breconshire, now remaining in the Bodleian library, and it will appear he never saw the stone, though he is accurate as to the manner and the person who sent it to the Priory: 'The Gaer is in this hamlet (speaking of the hamlet of Venni vach), it is the name of a great house at the end of the parish, westward upon the fall of the river Yskir into the Usk, about two miles from the town of Brecon, and the dwelling house of my honoured friend Elinor Williams, lately deceased, a gentlewoman, for her birth qualities, and hospitality and deeds of charity, well known and respected throughout the whole county; being daughter of Henry Williams, Esq., of this place, who was paternally descended from the right worshipful Sir Henry Williams, of Gwernynyfet, knight, which lady, in building her new barns, coach house and stables, in a field on the south side of the house, called by some old people *Caer vong vawr Brevi*, dugged up several great walls and Roman bricks and a pair of stone stairs, one of which bricks she gave me, and two others, she told me, she sent to the worshipful Dr. Brewster. The field, being about twenty acres of ground, is inclosed with the ruins of a great wall, four-square, about two yards in thickness; she also told me, she had dug up in her ground adjoining, several long cause-ways leading several ways, but especially towards the bridge called *Pont ar Yskir*, that divides the parishes of Saint John from the parish of Aberyskir, she also told me, her father, in his buildings, had dug up a great stone like a grave, with a character on it that nobody could read, therefore he sent it to the worshipful Thomas Price of the Priory of Brecon, grandson and heir male of our great antiquary, the honourable Sir John Price, knight, in hopes he might read it; the stone, *I believe*, now remains under the west gate of the Priory, it not being laid till within these few years.<sup>1</sup> I have also been lately informed by a credible person, that at the same time, with this stone, there was dug up as many bricks as would make an oven, and that they were for that purpose sent to the Priory also; but that resolution altering, they were afterwards employed to stop up a window in that part of the Priory house called the Doctor dû. This I thought proper to note, least after ages, in another survey, might mistake themselves in presuming the Priory to have been a Roman building, and that they were first dug up there. It was the opinion of the very learned Mr. William Philips, the town clerk, whose great labours, were they not buried in oblivion, but made public to the world, would not only shew his great merit, but redound much to the honour of the nobility of all Wales, that *Caer vong* might rather be *Caer Mong* or *Monach*, so called by the monks of the Priory, monk town, but I believe it must have some older signification, neither can it enter my thoughts, that a people

<sup>1</sup> The inscription and stone given in plate V, fig. I, is copied from the writer of the *Notitia Cambria Britannica*, in the Badmington Library, who made the drawing on the spot, from a careful examination and views of the stone.



Fig. 1

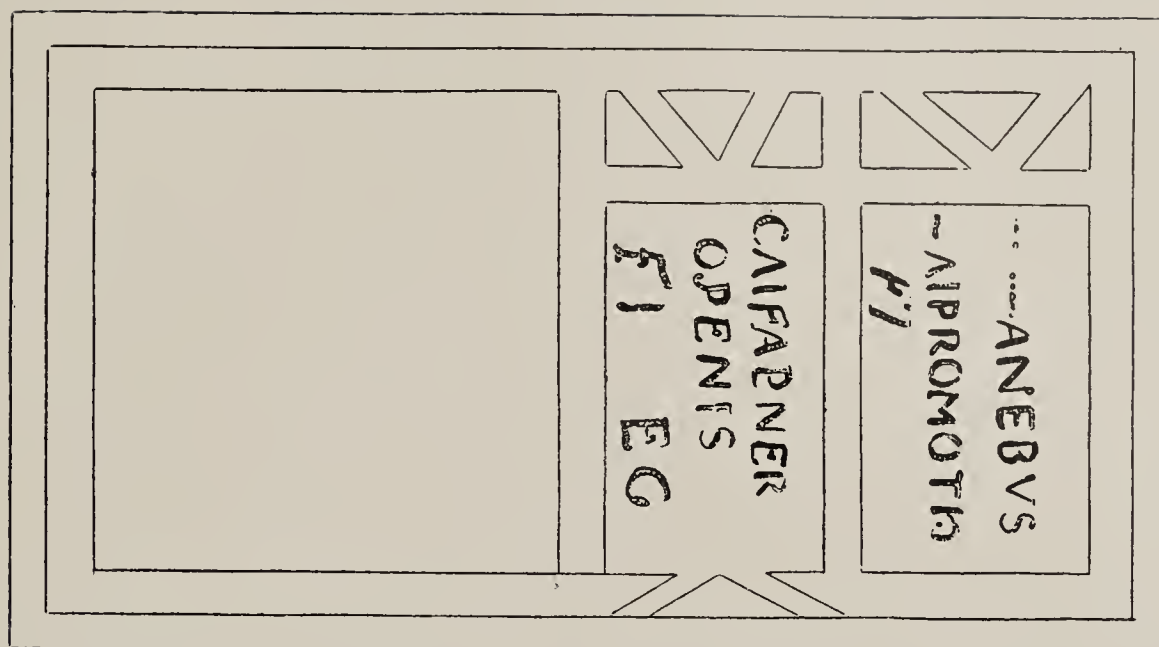
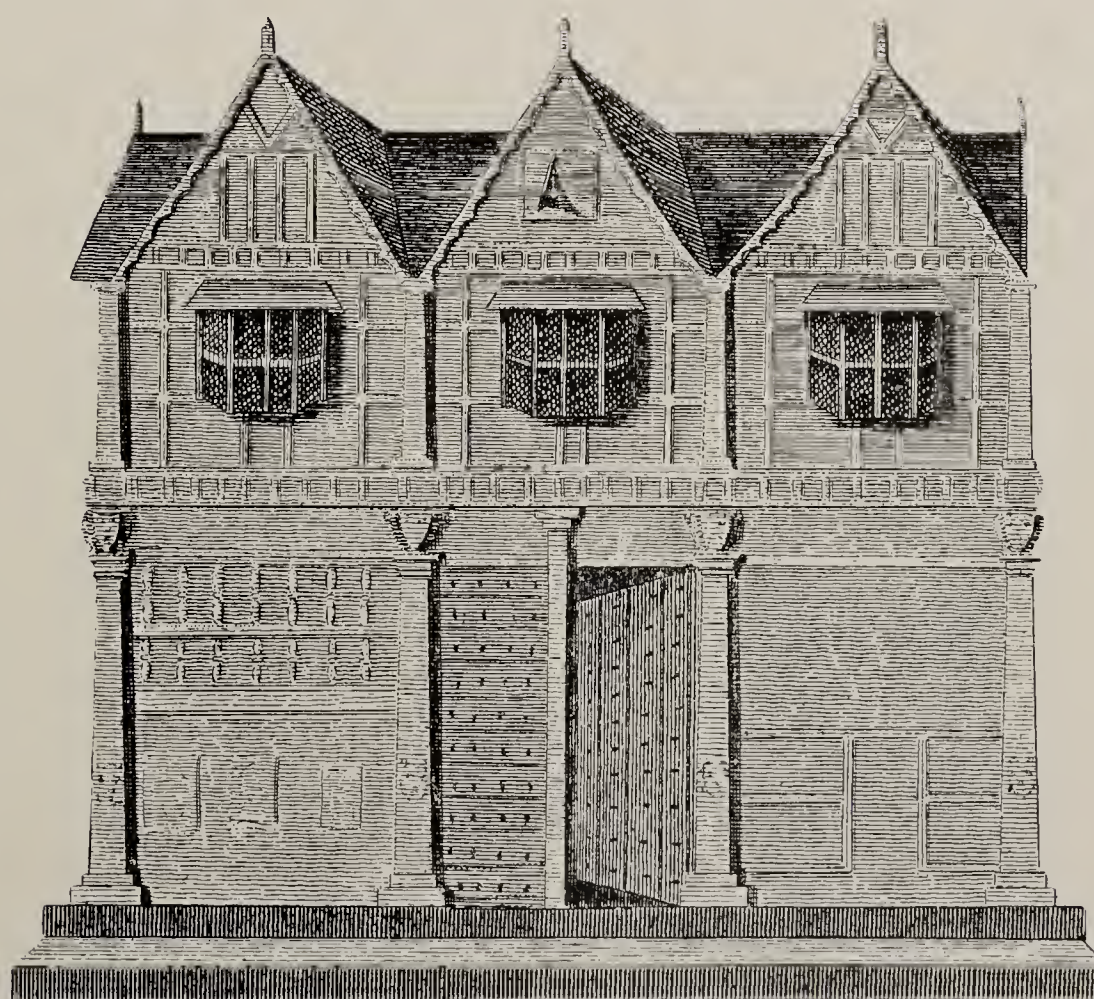


Fig. 2



*Old Town Hall at Brecon.*

PLATE V.

(From a Drawing by the Rev. Thomas Price.)

(1) Ancient stone from the Gaer. (2) Old Town Hall at Brecon.







so learned as the monks of all ages have been, should give the name of a town to a place that was destroyed before there was a monk at the Priory, or before ever the Priory was thought of, as we find in Giraldus Cambrensis.<sup>1</sup>

Here then is an unquestionable statement, as to the time and manner of the removal of this stone, by one of the actual proprietors of Gaer, which continued in the possession of the lineal descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch, until the time of William John Prosser, sheriff of Breconshire in 1554 and 1561, who left only a daughter or daughters, from whom it was purchased by Roger Williams, the second son of Sir David Williams the judge, whose monument in the Priory church has been noticed, and the younger brother of the first Sir Henry Williams of Gwernyfed, another branch from the same common ancestor as William John Prosser, with whose posterity it still continues.<sup>1</sup>

## STATE OF THE GAER IN 1800.

To those who have been in the habit of observing the fluctuations of property, so frequently occurring in the present days, this *unity of possession* for such a length of time may appear extraordinary; but it must be recollected, that when Bernard Newmarch established himself in this country, he rased Caerbannau to the ground, carried away with him to Brecon whatever materials he thought valuable, and left Gaer covered with heaps of rubbish, or Carnau, as the Welsh call them, so that the soil was of very little value for many generations afterwards; but independently of this, it was the practice, as well as the obvious policy of the first Normans settled here, to permit the old inhabitants of the country, upon their supplying the lord's larder with a sufficiency of provisions, to retain their ancient possessions, of which many instances will be seen hereafter: relying solely upon the strength and security of the impenetrable walls of their castles and castellated mansions, it was not until long after habits of intimacy and connections by marriages with their British subjects or neighbours, that they even ventured to quit their strong holds without their weapons. The characters of landlord and tenant were unknown, or at least not well understood, perhaps for a century or two after the irruption of the victors into this country, their supplies, extorted by rapine and violence, confined neither to measure or stated periods, were sometimes resisted by force, and frequently evaded by artifice, and civilization had made a considerable progress, and its consequent blessings and comforts were introduced and properly appreciated, before the conquerors applied themselves to agriculture, or obtained a permanent and definite interest in the produce of the soil.

We are now, then, arrived at Gaer, one of the earliest stations of the Romans in Britannia secunda, the ill fated metropolis of the unfortunate Bleddin ap Maenarch and the parent of Brecknock, and here 'P. Britannicus's' miracle dwindles into insignificance, when we find that after a period of 1,600 years and upwards, the situation, the figure, and the dimensions, of the Roman camp, are ascertained beyond the possibility of a doubt; conjecture therefore may upon this occasion be dismissed, and *probability*, the indulgent helpmate of the antiquary, be reserved for *further and future use*.

## MR. STRANGE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMP IN 1774.

Mr. Strange, in a paper inserted in the *English Archaeology*, vol. I., has so well described this camp, that after an admeasurement of the place, we follow his steps without deviation, his accuracy is generally if not always unquestionable, unless when he is tempted to translate from the Welsh; Gaer (says he) signifies a *round* wall or fortification, he then proceeds to state with great truth, that this encampment is upon the angle between the rivers Usk and Iskir, and commands a view of the former, and that it is a *parallelogram* of 624 feet by 426. 'The foundation of the wall, (he adds) which bounds this area, remains entire, and even the ruins of it, above ground, are in some places, particularly on the north and east sides, from three to six feet high; part of the facings is still perfect, the thickness of the walls is near seven feet and a half: it is in every respect similar to the walls of Caerleon and Caerwent; the farm house and offices are built in the north west angle of this camp.' The walls at present are much overgrown, and in some places concealed by underwood, but they may be traced without any difficulty round the whole of the field, and with a trifling expense, the foundations might not only be rendered visible, but they would form a sufficient fence to prevent the intrusion of cattle, excepting where it adjoins the farm yard, and where, if it be not downright profanation and Celtic barbarism, a new wall may be erected upon the track of the old one to exclude trespassers.

The whole area of this encampment is at this moment covered with fragments of bricks; one with the inscription of Leg II Aug. was dug up here and is in the possession of the proprietor of the soil, as are also three coins found here of Nero and Trajan, the two first are gold and the last

<sup>1</sup> The pedigree of this house will be given when we come to Gwernyfet, where the *Pencenedl* settled.



silver; the gold coins of Nero weigh, one of them four penny weights sixteen grains, and the other four penny weights, they are in tolerable preservation, and the heads, particularly the cheeks, in high relief; on the most weighty, round the margin and surrounding the head NERO CAESAR,—reverse, a figure sitting, which may be either male or female, according to the imagination of the virtuoso, holding an olive branch, underneath ROMA; on the second coin, also a head and the same inscription round the margin,—reverse, a female figure with a radiated head, holding in her left hand what we conceive to be a small image of victory,—inscription, AUGUSTUS GERMANICUS. The silver coin of Trajan weighs two penny weights only; around the head, as far as it can be made out, for it is not perfectly legible, IMP TRAIANO ER DAC PN C. PP.—on the reverse, a female figure, the head in part defaced, holding in her right hand a pair of scales and in her left a cornucopiæ; the inscription is not legible, further than that it commences with COSU and concludes with PRINC.<sup>1</sup> This coin was evidently *struck* in commemoration of Trajan's victory over the Dacians, A.D. 102, from which he obtained the surname of Dacius, during the consulship of Bebius Macer, Cæpio Hispo, Valerius Paulinus and Caius Cecilius, the initials of whose names perhaps may have formed part of the inscription.

Mr. Strange, who visited the encampment he describes in the year 1774, though it does not appear that his paper was read to the society of antiquarians until 1796, after thus briefly noticing this station, informs us, that within half a mile of Gaer house, joins an old Roman causeway, which, though overrun with bushes, is still visible; it runs nearly at right angles with the Eskir, but we could find no traces of it (says he), 'on the other side of that river or in the neighbourhood, except at Rhyd y briw bridge, where the remains of it are very visible. This was in all probability a branch leading from Caerleon in Monmouthshire through the vale of Usk and the eastern part of Breconshire to Ariconium, which is the twelfth iter in Antoninus's itinerary. Mrs. Williams, the present owner of Gaer, assures me the whole of the inscription on the Maen y Morwynion was legible in her memory.' What Mr. Strange means by the present road, is the cross lane leading from Pool to a gate on the old Roman way, about 100 to 150 yards eastward of the Maen y Morwynion, a stone first noticed by Bishop Gibson, in his additions to Camden's *Brecknockshire*, standing on the right side near the hedge as we pass from Brecon to Gaer: it is now fixed in the ground, though it was dug up some years back in hopes of making discoveries, but without success.<sup>2</sup> The good lady named by Mr. Strange amused herself (as is too frequently the custom in Wales) with the credulity of the Saxon, when she made the assurance he states, or perhaps he mistook her when she asserted that the inscription was then as legible as it ever was within her memory. Hugh Thomas, in one of his MSS. written between seventy and eighty years prior to this time, tells us the inscription was defaced, but that there were some old people living who remembered to have read it, and from him it was probably communicated to one of the Thomases of Slwch, for by an entry in the hand writing of the Reverend Henry Thomas, late of Slwch, rector of Llandevaillog in this county, in an edition of Gibson's *Camden*, now in the possession of the Reverend David Griffiths of Brecknock, it is stated that the inscription was, 'ALANCINA CIVIS, ET CONJUNX. H.S. EST.' 'That is (adds Mr. Thomas) as I take it, *Hic sepultus est.*' We are not inclined to deny that this constituted part, certainly it was not the whole of the inscription; it had probably not only the name of the Roman citizen, as well as his wife's, but also the description of his residence and other particulars, for from the space on the stone allotted for the purpose, as well as the letters still remaining, it consisted of many more words, and perhaps lines, than are above stated.

#### BRITISH INTRENCHMENTS AT PEN-Y-CRUG, BENNI, AND SLWCH.

From Gaer, Mr. Strange takes a stride to Pen y crûg, without noticing the British intrenchment in Benni wood, which is probably of higher antiquity than even the Roman camp, but concealed as it now is by trees, and defaced, as its foss and other vestiges nearly are, the omission is certainly pardonable, particularly as his description of the British military work near Brecon, of early, yet much later date than either of the former, though brief, is correct, except as to the name, which, with the true Saxon facility of blundering in attempts to translate the Welsh language, he says, 'signifies the chief heap or burrow,' whereas Pen y crûg is the summit of the mount or hillock, which at once points out the situation of the camp. It is as he observes, 'of an oval figure and surrounded with three very deep ditches, it appears to be one of the most curious and best preserved remains of that kind throughout the principality.' It contains within its area 200 yards, running north and south by 144; the western and south western sides are nearly precipitous; the ditches are in most places five or six yards in depth, though of unequal width, both in the trench and mounds, the entrance is from the south.

<sup>1</sup> Plate of coins, No. I. II. III.

<sup>2</sup> See plate VI. fig. II.



On an eminence opposite to this, called Slwch, formerly Penginger or Pen cefn y gaer, is another British camp of nearly the same form, though not of equal dimensions, with a double foss, in some places nearly destroyed, and none so perfect as those on the Crûg; these are the only remains in this parish of the labours of the Aborigines for their security and defence in intestine commotions or against the attacks of their English neighbours, until the Norman conquest taught them not merely to take the advantage of precipitous and elevated situations, but to add stone walls of enormous thickness and ponderous wooden and sometimes iron gates, fortified with the portcullis, for their protection.

## THE BRECKNOCK CASTLE.

The earliest structure of this description in this country was undoubtedly the castle of Brecknock. The time of the erection of this building by Bernard Newmarch has been already ascertained to be about the year 1094; the ruins of it, now remaining, are part of the very walls raised by our conqueror, for though it be admitted, as some authors have asserted, that Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, in one of his expeditions into South Wales, burnt or destroyed the castle of Brecknock, the observation of Mr. King, in his third volume of the *Munimenta Antiqua* upon the Castle of Broynllys, will apply to this, as well as perhaps all other fortresses in the principality. 'The present floors (says he) are all of timber, and every mark in the mode of constructing and supporting them, shew that from the very first æra of its building they must ever have been so, and therefore it is very possible they may have been even burnt and refitted over and over again, whilst the walls remained less injured than those of a potter's kiln; we may easily comprehend then how it comes to pass that several of those so strange and marvellous piles have really preserved their exact outward form from age to age, and do still exist to bear testimony to the usages of the most early periods, notwithstanding what has been recorded in history concerning their having been repeatedly destroyed.' The outward walls, therefore, of this castle, which are thicker even than those of the Roman camp at Gaer, still continue to display the earliest style of Norman architecture, though we cannot say that the resemblance between this structure and Fitzhammon's castle of Caerdiff is as apparent to us as it was to Mr. King; on the contrary, we conceive that if the present dwelling house there constituted part of the building, while it continued to be considered as a place of defence, it is of much later date than the time of Fitzhammon, and though what is called Robert Courthose's tower and the keep in the centre may boast of very high antiquity, yet the masonry differs *very materially* from that seen in the walls of the castle of Brecon.

Though the construction of the interior of the residence of Bernard Newmarch must be left very much to conjecture, the form of it remains perfectly visible; it was an oblong square of one hundred yards by eighty yards. On the east and south east the river Honddu washed its walls, and we are inclined to think that the deep ravine on the north, though now considerably filled up by the ruins which have tumbled into it, was once so deep as to convey part of the water of the Honddu around the castle into the Usk, somewhere near the lower bridge on the former river, by which means the castle was completely insulated.

## THE MAENDU WELL SUPPLIES THE CASTLE.

Hugh Thomas tells us, that at each corner of what he calls the square of this spacious building, were two watch towers, as might then be seen. The ruins of two of them still remain at the southern angle, and upon an elevated and artificial mound, to the north east is the keep, since the confinement of Morton bishop of Ely, called Ely tower, where the conversation with the duke of Buckingham, mentioned in the former volume, is supposed to have passed. The adjoining ground on this side is considerably higher than the site of the castle, which made the northern front more assailable than on any other aspect; there were here therefore, in addition to the deep ravine or mote before noticed, two additional fosses, occasionally filled with water from a well called the Maendy well, which also supplied the fortress, though from the facility with which this stream could be interrupted by an enemy in the time of a siege, there can be no doubt that there was also a well within the walls, as water could be procured there without digging to any great depth.

## ENTRANCES AND COURT OF BAILI GLAS.

The principal entrance or gate was to the west; opposite thereto and in the eastern front was another called the Postern, since corrupted into the Postrwm and Apostrwm, by which the lane and street adjoining are now known. Leading from the gate a few yards eastward is a stone bridge of two arches, formerly a draw bridge, and if Speed's map can be relied upon, there was also another of the same description on the western side over the mote between the castle and the green mound of hillock called Baili glas, where the courts leet with view of frank pledge and courts baron of



the lords of Brecknock were held of old, and even as late as 1694, Bishop Watson was served here, while sitting in court with the steward or seneschal,<sup>1</sup> with a citation by a mandatory, named by the Archbishop of Canterbury to answer certain articles objected against him.

This court of Baili glas has been mentioned in the former volume; its jurisdiction was anciently very extensive,<sup>2</sup> it not only comprehended the manor of Brecon, but also extended to Herefordshire. The time and manner when these possessions were dissevered from those in the county of Brecon can only be discovered by the perusal of the title deeds of the present proprietors; but in the 13th of Henry the 8th, after the attainder of the last Duke of Buckingham, the crown held lands in Herefordshire, as part of the honour of Hereford, it is true, yet appurtenant to the manor of Brecon, and consequently subject to the jurisdiction of the court of Baili glas.<sup>3</sup>

#### ANCIENT HALL.

The situation of the goodly hall, with its costly pendants in goodly fashion, mentioned in the survey we have just alluded to, is now sought for in vain within the interior of the castle of Brecknock; if it had not been described as having no lights or windows on the sides, and only one in each pine end, we should have concluded it occupied the site of the present fives court, but here there are several very ancient windows in the side wall, which were not stopped up until after it was converted into a ball court, so that from the figure of the cow in wood, now nearly decayed in the front of the present house, the latter being evidently of late construction, it may have extended the whole length of the mansion, and upon its falling into ruins towards the middle of the 18th century, the modern dwelling succeeded it.

#### SAINT NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL.

The site of the chapel of Saint Nicholas, within this fabric, must also be left equally to conjecture, as no vestige remains by which it may be ascertained; but such there certainly was, in which divine worship was performed and mass sung by the monks of Saint John's, for which they were repaid principally by the contributions of the garrison and the voluntary offerings of the pious. We say principally, because, though no grants to this chapel are preserved, we learn from Dugdale and Giraldus Cambrensis<sup>4</sup> that there formerly were territorial possessions belonging to it, for the latter tells us that William de Breos detained certain lands which had been given to the chapel of Saint Nicholas at Aberhodne, when the priest serving there, whose name was Hugh, saw in a vision a reverend person assisting him, and heard him speak these words, 'Go tell thy lord, William de Breose, who presumeth to hold these possessions which were anciently given to the chappel, in pure alms, this saying, *Hoc aufert Fiscus quod non accipit Christus; dabis impio militi quod non vis dare sacerdoti*': and thereupon the priest went to the archdeacon of Landu (Llanddew) and relating what he had seen and heard, the archdeacon told him they were the words of Saint Augustine, and shewed him where, adding that the detinue of tythes should be improsperous.

#### OLD COUNTY PRISONS.

This castle continued not only to be the seat for the administration of public justice under the lords marchers, but after its forfeiture to the crown, and until its demolition in the time of Charles the first, the receipt of the king's audit, and likewise the common gaol for the county; it should seem indeed that it was used for the latter purpose as late as the year 1690,<sup>5</sup> when Hugh Thomas says the gaol in the Watton was built, 'which of its bigness (he informs us) was as strong and handsome as any on this side England or Wales.' If the herald be correct, miserable indeed must have been the appearance of the prisons on this side of England or Wales in his time; in point of strength, indeed it was perhaps sufficient to secure the criminals in those days, to whom the ingenuity of modern offenders was unknown; but it was very far from being well planned or properly constructed, although the outward wall was higher and more strongly built than that of the present

<sup>1</sup> This officer was formerly (though perhaps improperly) called here the seneschal. '*Seneschallus, siniscalco*, we English it and use it for a steward,' says Minsheu; he had the receipt, management and control of the lord's revenues, as the constable of the castle had of his household; this latter officer, by a strange *bouleversement* in terms, is now called the mayor or major domo, the ancient seneschall: he is at present merely nominal, and generally landlord of the house.

<sup>2</sup> The copyholds now held under this court, and which pass by surrender at the will of the lord, which however is limited, by which he is restrained from precluding or objecting to the right of succession of the heirs, called in this case, the customary heirs, or to the alienation of the property, are confined to part only of the town of Brecon and its vicinity, and also to what is called the mansion and demesne in Trecastle and Hallimote meadow, being the principal inn there, and some few fields adjoining.

<sup>3</sup> For a survey of the possessions of the lords of this lordship, castle and manor, obligingly communicated by the late Sir Charles Morgan, see appendix, No. VI.

<sup>4</sup> Dugd. Mon. 415, Gir. Cam. Itin, p. 71, 72.

<sup>5</sup> Perhaps the old building in the Struet, which was afterwards used as a workhouse and house of correction, on which two houses have been since erected by Mr. Grazebrook, who laid the present pipes and brought the water for the use of the town, may have been the common county gaol, after the demolition of the castle and prior to that in the Watton.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 3.

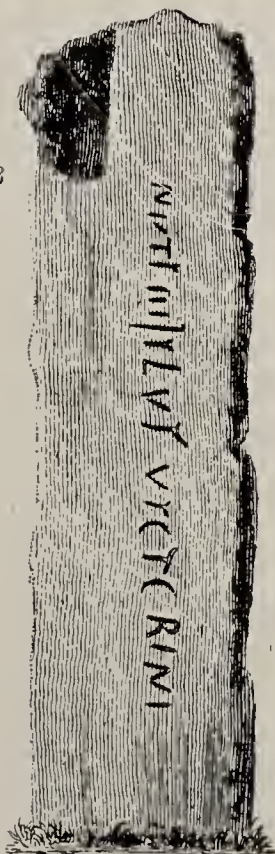
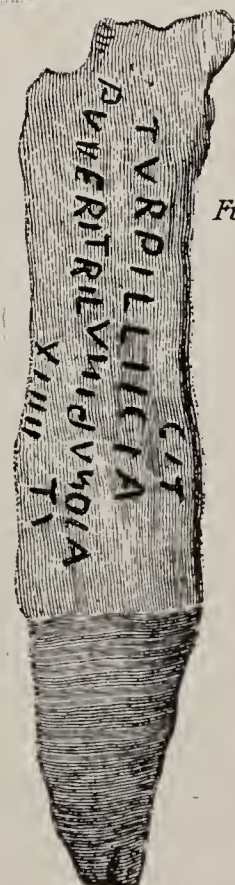


Fig. 4.



## PLATE VI.—ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

(From Drawings by Rev. Thomas Price.)

- (1) The stone at Llandefaelog. (2) The stone near Cradoc. (3) The Victorini Stone.  
(4) The Turphilus Stone. (5) The Catari Stone.







county gaol and house of correction, erected in the parish of Saint David's, on the south side of the river Tarell, in pursuance of Mr. Howard's suggestions, which was so miserably and negligently finished, that it might be asserted without exaggeration, a prisoner, with a little perseverance, might, with a bit of old iron or ten penny nail, have made a sufficient breach to enable him to escape. This mischief has now however been prevented by the erection of a solid, strong and thick stone wall, built by the county at a great expense, surrounding the whole area of the prison and former wall.

#### OLD BOROUGH GAOLS AND PRISONERS' CHAPEL.

Besides the county gaol, the corporation have one adjoining the Struet gate, near which, it appears<sup>1</sup> there was formerly a chapel where the prisoners heard mass. This is very rarely used now as a place of confinement, as the borough magistrates commit to the county gaol, which is within their jurisdiction, except in cases of riots, or breaches of the peace; they had also a cell near the bridge over the river Usk adjoining the gate there. In this hole, though the sentimental sympathizing sensibility of the present day, which is more actively engaged in promoting the comfort of criminals, than in the prevention of vice, would hold it cruel to immure a dog, drunkards were sometimes confined for a night, and to this dungeon, tradition tells us, a lord lieutenant of Ireland narrowly escaped being committed in the reign of Elizabeth: his name is forgotten, but it was probably either the Earl of Leicester or Essex, who, in his journey to or from England, dining with the bailiff, aldermen and common council of Brecon, at one of their feasts thought proper to assert his claim to precedence at the table. '*Sing the bell*<sup>2</sup> (says the testy Welshman, who then presided over the corporation) and take him to Porth bach': the viceroy saw the imprudence of resistance, apologized for his conduct and submitted to become the second subject in Brecon.

This building, as well as the bridge gate and some adjoining houses, which rendered the entrance into Brecon by this road extremely narrow, were taken down in 1776 or 1777, under the act for paving, lighting, cleansing and widening the streets of Brecon; under the provisions of this law, many improvements have been made there at different times, insomuch that if one of the burgesses of 1650 were now placed in the middle of the town, and his memory of past events and the haunts of his youth permitted to return to his mind and his eyes, Brecknock would hardly be recognised as his quondam residence. He would look about in vain for the pent-houses formerly fronting to the High Street; in vain would he search for what was called the Cross, which afterwards served as a conduit for the water, conveyed there by one of the Jeffreyses of the Priory for the use of the town,<sup>3</sup> and the old town hall would appear to him with a new face, though it has not changed its situation.

#### THE ANCIENT TOWN HALL AND NEW BARRACKS.

This old town hall, of which an engraving is given,<sup>4</sup> was built by John Abel in 1624, he was a Herefordshire man and erected those of Hereford and Leominster, he died in 1674, aged 97, and is buried at Sarnsfield in that county. The motto round the sun dial, on the front of this building was, *Soles nobis pereunt et imputantur*, and on the four shields, on the capitals of the lower range of pillars first *Vive ut post vivas*, on the second *Where justice rules, there virtue flows*, third *Sat cito et sat bene*, and on the fourth, 1624, and the initials B. and W. From the above date, we conclude that it was erected in the year 1624, if so, it underwent some alterations or repairs in 1638, for in the spring of that year we find the Great Sessions to have been holden in the great hall at Newton in Saint David's, as it was in the year 1770 (while the town hall was building), in the great hall adjoining the dwelling house in the college. The expense of this structure was borne partly by the county and borough and partly by the munificence of their representatives, it has a cellar or vault below it, where leather and other merchandizes are preserved, above which is a market house, where hops, butter and other articles, are sold at fairs and markets. On the first floor is a room for the administration of justice, here the Great Sessions, Quarter Sessions, the County and Town Courts are held, and at the east end is a jury room, for the accommodation of the grand jury of the county, and for the preservation of the public records. The garret or upper floor was usually converted into a receptacle for military stores; government, however, in the year 1805, erected a very handsome

<sup>1</sup> See appendix, No. I.

<sup>2</sup> Meaning the bell to call the constables together. *Sing the bell* is the literal translation of *Canweh y glock*, and is frequently heard in Wales.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to the erection of this conduit, it should seem that the water was brought into a general reservoir, situated where the house of the late Mr. William Winter now stands on the south side of Saint Mary's Church, for in 1587, one Watkin Lewis, bobyth (or the baker), devises a burgage freehold in Morganwg street, where the *townys pond* is to his son; and in digging the foundation of the present mansion, some years back, it was not without great difficulty, and after driving down piles to a considerable depth, that the workmen were able to secure a temporary support to one of the pino ends, which has since sunk, the whole of the small garden between Mr. Wynter's house and Morganwg street, if dug up, would probably turn out to be treacherous ground.

<sup>4</sup> Plate V. fig. II.



depot for arms and ammunition, on the east side of the road leading through the Watton, which removes the apprehensions of danger, felt by some of the inhabitants when large quantities of gunpowder were deposited in the hall.

In this street, at a public house, called the Shoulder of Mutton, was born, the celebrated Mrs. Siddons. We know not whether we may or may not, without offence, state her age, but presuming that there is no impropriety in an insertion of the copy of the register of her baptism, we take the liberty of stating that it was upon the 14th of July, 1755, though her father is therein erroneously called George Kemble, a comedian, instead of Roger Kemble. We are informed that Hereford has been considered as the place of her birth, but the fact is beyond controversy, otherwise as might have been proved a very few years ago, by a woman, now dead, who was present at Mrs. Siddon's birth,<sup>1</sup> and perhaps even now it may not be difficult to establish the circumstances, if necessary.

#### EARLY NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS.

We have now taken a brief survey of what may be called public or principal buildings in Brecon, unless the meeting houses be considered as such, in which case it will be sufficient to say we have four, one in the persuasion of Mr. Wesley, another of Mr. Whitfield, another for Anabaptists, and the fourth for Independents, and we have likewise a small congregation of Roman Catholics in a private house.

#### OLD MANSIONS IN THE BOROUGH.

Of the mansions of the former great, little remains to be said; their grandeur has perished and their castellated fronts have yielded to the fashions of later times or the capricious taste of more modern architects. Slwch, the manor house, though not as we apprehended, the principal residence of the Awbreys, afterwards for several generations the seat of a rich, powerful, and numerous family of the name of Thomas, now extinct, and devised by one of them, as before noticed, to Anne, daughter of Mr. Phillips of Brecon, who married Henry Scourfield of Mote, in Pembrokeshire, esq., in whose descendants it continues, is now a farm house. The mansion of the Priory has hitherto preserved, in some degree, its respectability and probably will soon appear in greater magnificence than ever; it therefore requires some further attention, not only on account of the celebrity of its former occupiers, but because it will introduce to the reader's acquaintance a family of considerable wealth and distinction, whose descendants, in the female line, have been ennobled, and some of whom have held very high and important stations under the crown.

In this house, King Charles the First, after the battle of Naseby, dined with Sir Herbert Price, called the governor in the *Iter Carolinum*, and slept on the 5th of August 1645, and from hence he despatched a letter to Prince Charles, then in Cornwall, preserved in Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion*, in which he seems clearly to foresee his fate, and advises his son to quit the kingdom and fly to France. The royal fugitive came, *in his way from Cardiff*, to Mr. Pritchard's of Llancayach in Llantrissant, Glamorganshire, and from thence to Brecon, in one day; on the 6th he dined with Sir Henry Williams at Gwernyfed, and supped at Old Radnor.

Sir John Price was, as appears by the pedigree hereinafter inserted, one of the descendants of Einon Sais, and like the Gameses, the Williams of Gwernyvet and others from the same ancestor, inherited from him, or stimulated by his success, entertained early in life, an expectation of making his fortune in England. In what year he was born does not appear, but from A. Wood (who is however much at a loss to discriminate between two or three of the same name), we find that he was of Broad Gates Hall or Pembroke College at Oxford, and admitted bachelor of civil law in 1534. No mention is made by this author of his having obtained further academic honours, but York, in his *Royal Tribes of Wales*, says he was a doctor of both laws; he was patronized and encouraged in prosecuting his studies by William earl of Pembroke, in token of respect to whose memory the family afterwards adopted the name of Herbert, as a christian name, or at least, we presume thus much, for we see no intermarriages between any of the descendants of that peer and the Prices of the Priory. Sir John Price became a student at one of the inns of court, and after having been called to the bar, was soon noticed by King Henry the Eighth, by whom he was appointed one of his Council in the Court of the Marches; he married Joan, daughter of John Williams of Southwark, Esq.

#### ANCESTOR OF OLIVER CROMWELL.

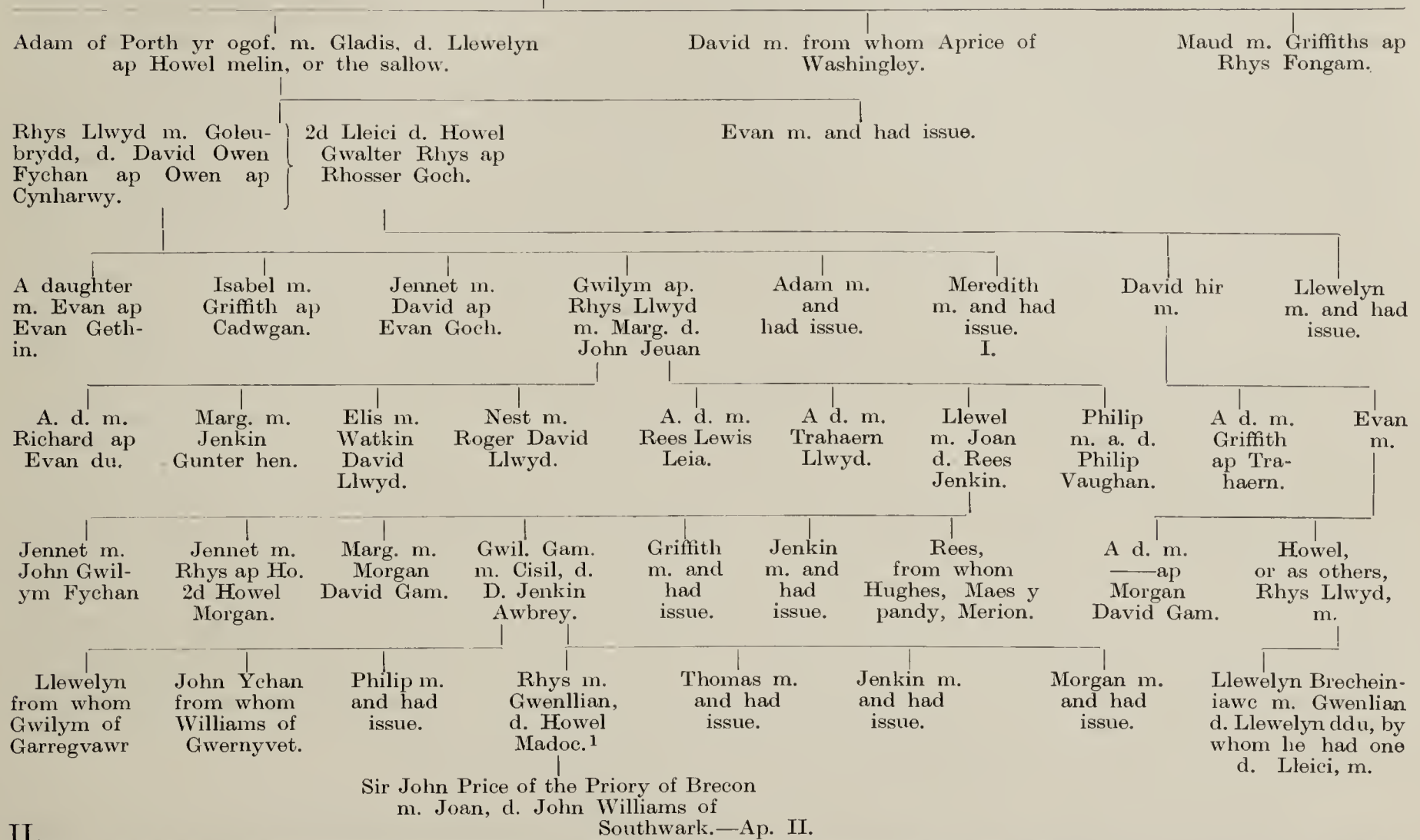
This John Williams was a son of William Evan or William *Morgan* of Whitechurch, and elder brother of Morgan *Williams*, who married a daughter of Walter Cromwell of Putney, from whom descended Oliver Cromwell the protector.

<sup>1</sup> The registration of birth will be found duly entered in the Register of St. Mary's Church, Brecon, the parents being described as "strolling players."

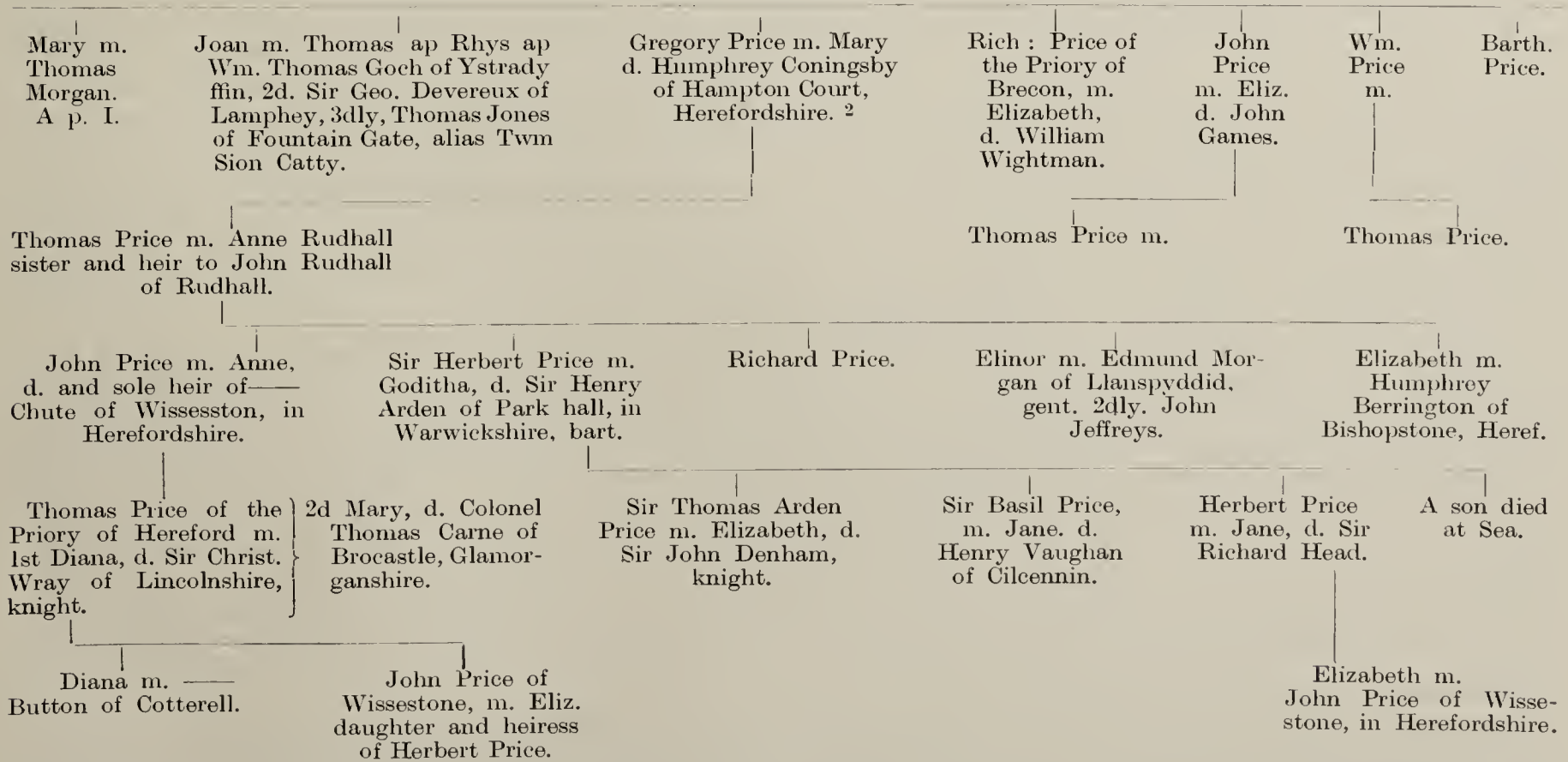


## SIR JOHN PRICE OF THE PRIORY OF BRECON.

I. The same as Sir David Gam, to Rhys second son of Einion Sais, inclusive, Rhys ap Einion Sais married Elen, second daughter of Llewelyn ap Howel Hên, or the old.



## II.



<sup>1</sup> Besides the above, Rhys had by his first wife, Griffith, who had issue John, father of David, father of Howel, called *Pencerdd*, or doctor of music.

<sup>2</sup> He had also a daughter, Margaret, who married Jeffrey Jeffreys of Abercynrig, and brought with her the Priory to that family.

N.B.—The numerical references in the pedigrees will be to the figures at the top of the inner margin of the pages of genealogy.



Sir John Price took a very active part in the union of Wales with England, and was, as before observed, supposed to be the person who dictated the petition to Henry the Eighth, a composition which does him great honour, and which will probably outlive all his other works; during the whole of this reign he was a favourite in the English court. Upon the dissolution of religious houses, he, with others, among whom were Sir Edward Carne of Eweny, and John Arnold of Llantoni, was appointed a commissioner for their suppression, and impowered to seize their possessions for the use of the crown; this duty, within the county of Brecon, fell to the lot of Sir John Price, and it must be acknowledged, was executed with great alacrity and diligence. Having, either by favour or for a pecuniary consideration, or both, obtained grants from the king, he undertook the task of applying the produce to charitable purposes, and recollecting the old adage, that charity begins at home, he retained the whole or the greatest part of the lands and tythes lately belonging to the Priory of Brecon, and other religious houses lying in this county, in his own hands. Wood says he was knighted by Edward the Sixth in 1545, but in this he is incorrect, for he occurs as sheriff of Breconshire, by the description of Sir John Price of the Priory, knight, in 1541; so that he must have received that honour in the latter end of the reign of Henry the Eighth. It is by no means clear when or where he died; Wood, from whom Owen, in his *Cambrian Biography* has copied, says in 1553, yet York, in his *Royal Tribes*, places that event more correctly in 1572. He was sheriff of Herefordshire in the former year,<sup>1</sup> and probably the publication of his defence of the British history against Polydore Virgil by his second son, Richard Price, in 1573, appeared soon after his death, and not long after it was finished. His other works are, *A Description of Wales*, prefixed to Powel's history, which is extremely inaccurate and confused; Brwynllis is given as another name for Eglwys iail, Tyr Ralph is brought from Glamorganshire into Breconshire, and other mistakes as to the situations of places frequently occur, as before noticed; he is likewise said to have written a translation of the Apostle's creed, the Lord's prayer and the ten commandments into Welsh, a treatise in Latin concerning the Eucharist, and to have assisted his friend Leland in his *Assertio Arturii*. To his son Richard Price, who was well known, and received at the court of London, during the reigns of Edward the Sixth, Philip and Mary, and the beginning of Elizabeth, we have reason to believe that Shakspeare was indebted for 'that remnant of Welsh flannel,' Sir Hugh Evans, a character (if such it may be called) which seems to be introduced merely to amuse the audience with the jargon and phraseology of the Briton, and to make fritters of the English, in which, as in everything else the poet has undertaken, he has most admirably succeeded.

#### SIR HUGH EVANS' WILL.

Sir<sup>2</sup> Hugh Evans was the protégé of our antiquary, Sir John Price and his son Richard, the latter of whom presented him with the living of Merthyr Cynog in Breconshire, in 1572: he appears to have been a man of reading and to have left what at that time must have been considered as a very valuable library. He died in 1581; by his will of that date, in his own hand writing, he gives to his brothers and sisters several legacies, among which are a black horse, fifteen lambs, ten hedes (heads) of shipe, 'to Richard David, clerk, the third part of my books, and my will is that Mr. Richard Price, esquier, shall have the openinge of my grete chest, and that he shall give and distribute the monie found there between my brothers and sister, Harry Jeuan, John Jeuan and Juhan, vz. Jeuan, I give Mr. Richard Price 3*l*. to my sister Lleiki vz. Jeuan, 16*d*. I appoint David ap Jeuan and Jenkin ap David, mine executors, and Mr. Richard Price, esquier, to be overseer of my will.'

#### OTHER OWNERS OF THE PRIORY.

Gregory Price, the eldest son and heir of Sir John Price, was sheriff of Breconshire in 1585 and 1593; upon his marriage with the daughter of Sir Humphrey Coningsby, he settled in Herefordshire, for which county he was elected one of the representatives in the fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary, and in the thirty ninth of Elizabeth.<sup>3</sup> Richard Price, the second son of Sir John Price, was a man of learning, though he never published any work of his own; he appears twice on the list of Breconshire sheriffs, where he was very highly esteemed and honoured; he resided at the Priory of Brecon, and held it during his life, either under a devise in his father's will or as tenant to his brother Gregory. We are inclined to think he was chosen to represent the borough of Brecon in parliament in the year 1571, although he is called in the list of members, in the first volume, *Rice* Price, but the abbreviations of Rice and Richard are so similar in MSS. in Wales, like Jenkin and

<sup>1</sup> Duncombe's *History of Herefordshire*, vol. I. p. 146.

<sup>2</sup> In order that this appellation may be understood, it must be observed that when it was formerly applied to a clergyman it was to such as had not taken a degree in the university (see notes to *Merry Wives of Windsor*, by Malone and Percy). Where the title is confined to readers alone, whereas, not only curates but vicars frequently described themselves is their wills, and are thus described during the beginning of the seventeenth century.

<sup>3</sup> Duncumbe's *Hereford* vol. I. p. 155.



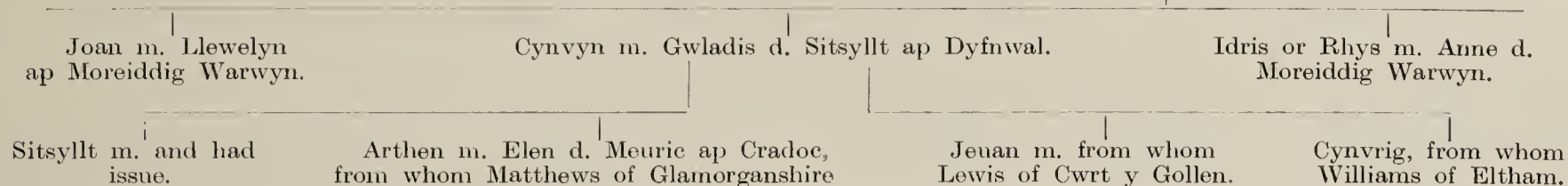
Jeuan, that the copy used by us is probably erroneous in this particular. Upon the death of Richard Price without issue about the year 1590, the Priory came into the possession of John Price, who resided there during his father's life time, and who was elected member for the county of Brecon in 1625, but one of his relations marrying Jeffrey Jeffreys of Brecon, it was settled upon her and her issue; their surviving granddaughter and heiress, Dorothy,<sup>1</sup> married Thomas Flower, their son was William Flower, baron Castledurrow in Ireland, father of Henry, first lord viscount Ashbrook. Thomas Flower and wife sold the Priory to Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys, knight, of the Llywel family of that name, whose granddaughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married Charles, the late Earl and father of the present Earl Camden, and brought with her the Priory and a very considerable landed property in Breconshire, now possessed by his lordship, who, it is said, has an intention of occasionally residing here.

The pedigrees of the families next immediately succeeding Sir John Price's, in the possession of the Priory, follow :

## JEFFREYS OF THE PRIORY OF BRECON AND ABERCYNRIG.

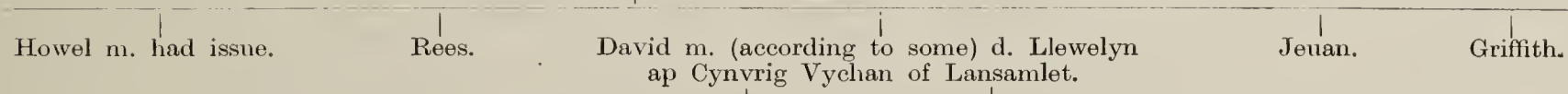
I. Rhys Goch, or the red haired, lord of Ystradyw, now the hundred of Crickhowell, married Joan, daughter of Cadwgan ap Elystan Glodrydd, prince of Ferregs.

Gonyllyn Cynhyllyn, or Cyhylyn foel of Powis, married Jonet, daughter and heiress of Howell, lord of Carleon.



Howel married Jennet, daughter of Gronw ap Llwareh lord of Cibor, Glamorganshire,

Griffith tew deg, or the fat and fair, married Joan, daughter of Gronw Fychan, lord of Penrhos.<sup>2</sup>



Howell Gam, Lord of Penrhos, from whom Williams of Llangibby.

Griffith m. Jane d. John Gunter.

David married Jane, daughter of Howell Burchill.

Griffith married Jane Watkin Philip

David married Jane, daughter of William Havard.

Jeffrey married Mallt, daughter of David Morgan Griffith.

John Jeffreys of Brecon, mercer, purchased Abercynrig, married Margaret daughter of Howell ap Jeuan.<sup>3</sup> A p. II.

II. A. d. m. Tho. Vaughan A. p. I. A. d. m. Lowis Meredith. A. d. m. Howel Morgan. Elizabeth m. Andrew Paynard. Jeffrey Jeffreys m. Margaret d. Tho. Price of the Priory.<sup>4</sup> Charles Jeffreys S.P. 1643. Howel Jeffreys m. Elizabeth d. Harry Vaughan of Maccas.

John Jeffreys m. a d. —Basset of Nottinghamshire, had several children, one only survived. ob. 1688.

Herbert Jeffreys m. a d. —Vaughan of Kirkcomb Abbey. Yorkshire

Thomas Jeffreys m. Margaret d. Tho. Powel of Penkilly Castle.

John Jeffreys of Pen y wern, m. Elinor d. Thomas Price, Esq.

Roger Jeffreys m. Eliz. d. Jn. Thomas of Rhydywernen.

Wm. Jeffreys m. Mary d. John Gwyn, 1666.

(See next page.)

<sup>1</sup> John Jeffreys, the father of this lady, it is said, prohibited her from doing three things; selling the Priory, burying him at Carmarthen, (where he had a property, but where he conceived himself ill used) or marrying an Irishman; she inadvertently disobeyed him in all.

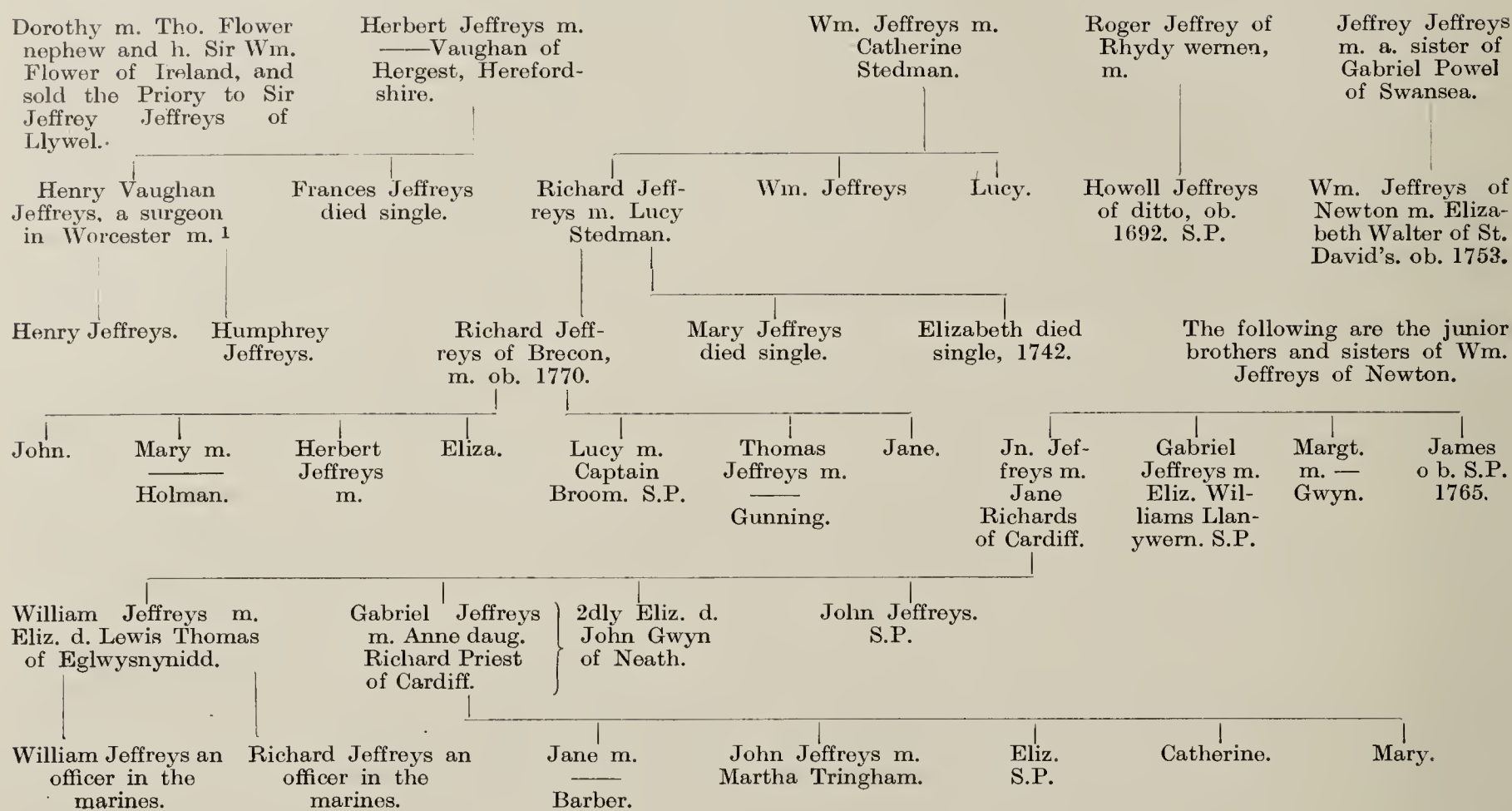
<sup>2</sup> He was hanged by Gilbert, earl of Clare, who resided at Caerffili, because he hung a monk at Ystrad monach, who told the earl that the countess at confession acknowledged an over familiarity with Griffith.

<sup>3</sup> He had, as appears by his tomb stone, fifteen children: the two sons next to Howel were named John and Lewis, he had also a daughter, Anne, who married Edward Herbert of Crickhowell.

<sup>4</sup> Jeffrey Jeffreys of Abercynrig had also three daughters, Elizabeth married Francis Pitt, eighth son of Edward, eldest son of Sir William Pitt, comptroller of the household under Elizabeth, James, and Charles the First, Anne married Thomas Williams of Abercamlais, and the third was also married.

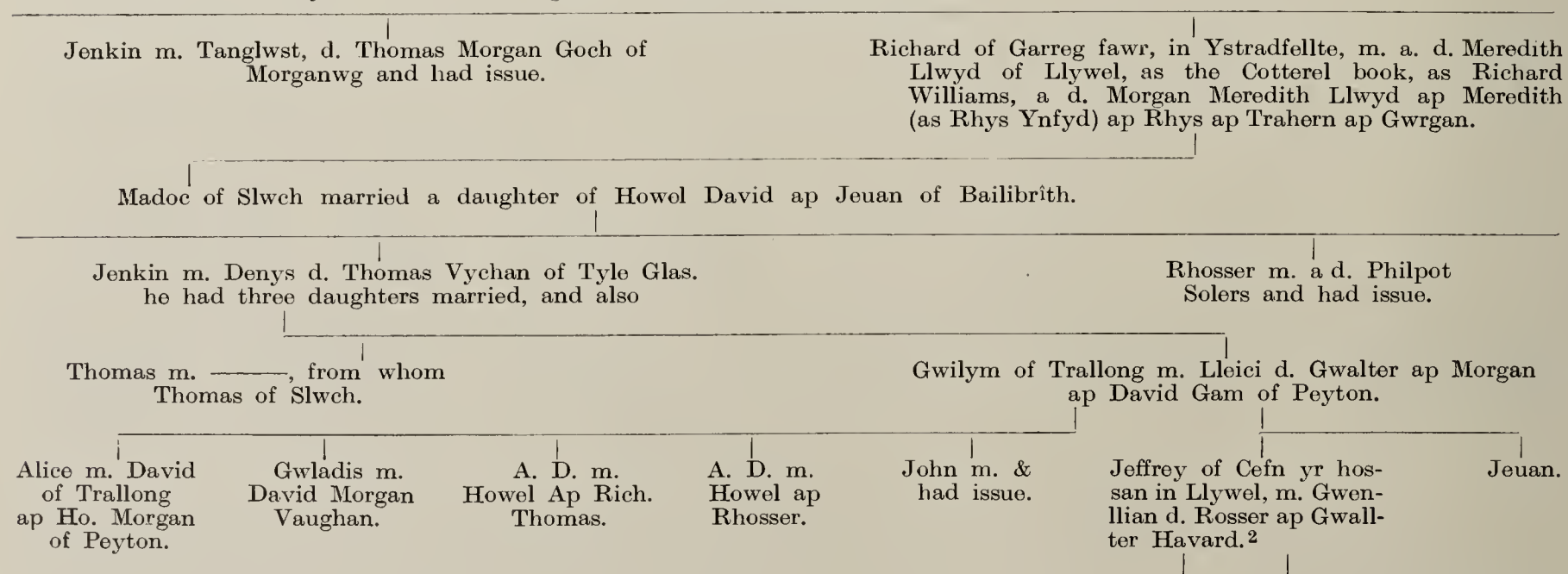


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## JEFFREYS OF THE PRIORY, OF THE LLYWEL FAMILY.

- I. The same as Sir David Gam, to Richard of Aberyscir, inclusive.  
Richard of Aberyscir married a daughter of Madoc ap Jenkin Havard.



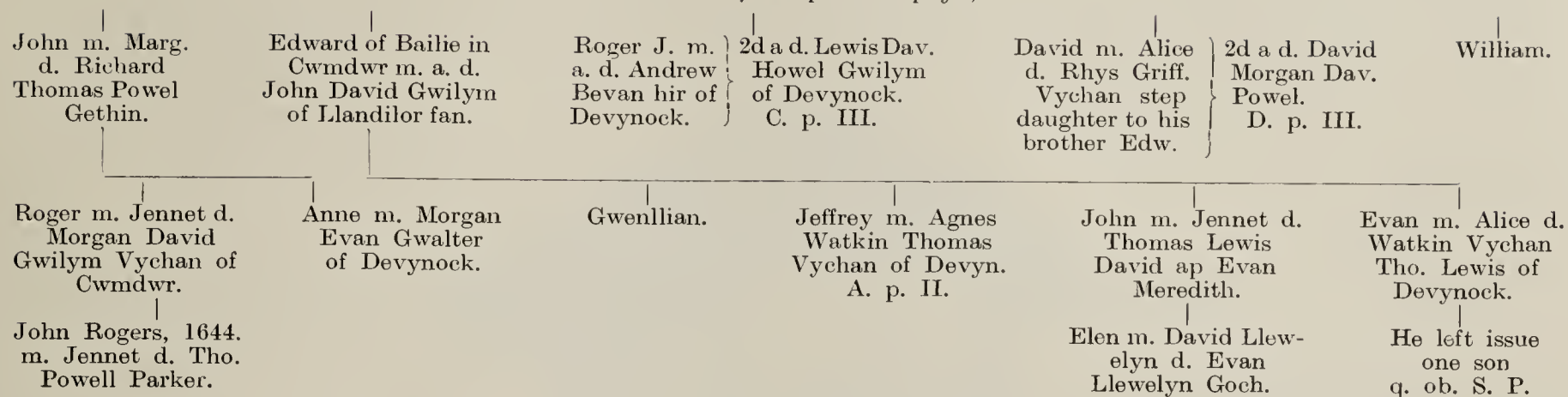
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<sup>1</sup> Henry V. Jeffreys had also five daughters.

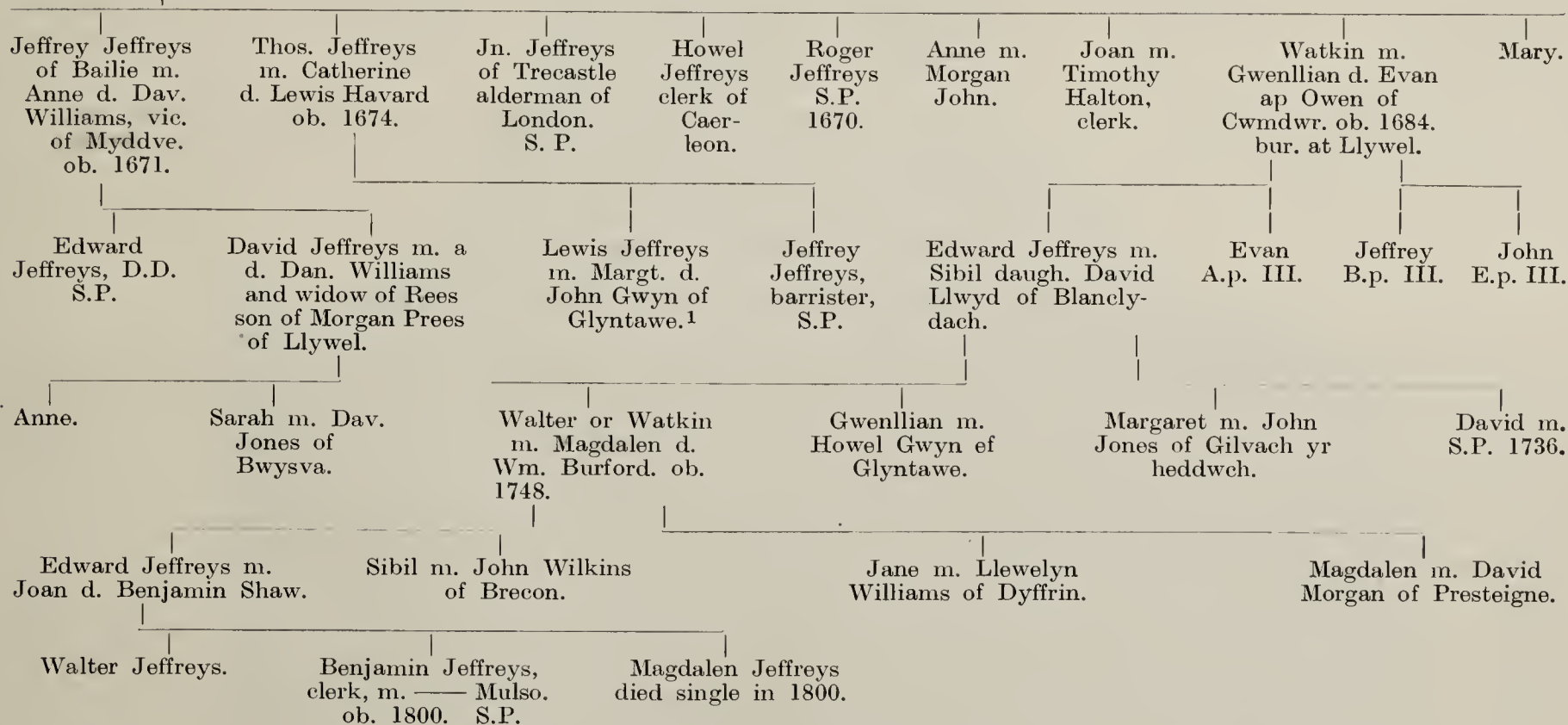
<sup>2</sup> Jeffrey had also five daughters, Margaret married Thomas ap Einion of Ynis fawr in Llywel, Joan married Llewelyn Gwilym of Garreg fawr, a daughter married Rhytherch Morgan Price of Llangamarch, a daughter married Gwalter fain ap Thomas hir, and Catherine who married Morris Jenkin ap Morgan Jenkin Griffith Bowen Gethin.



(Continued from previous page.)



II. A p. I. Jeffrey Edward aforesaid had issue by his wife Agnes, five daughters. Agnes married Thomas Prees Thomas of Llywel, Jennet married David Thomas ap Owen, Gwenllian married Watkin Jeuan Edward of Devynock, another Gwenllian married Jenkin James, and Nost married David Evan David ap Howel Gwalter, and also Edward Jeffreys, who married Agnes, daughter of Watkin David Llwyd, and died in 1642.



(Continued on next page.)

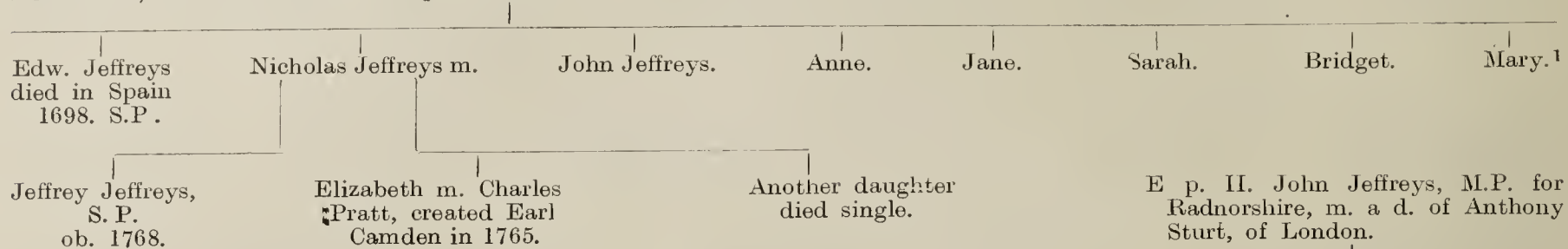
For later details as to the Jeffreys family, the reader should also consult the pedigrees under the parish of Llywel.

<sup>1</sup> Lewis Jeffreys was taken suddenly ill at the Swan and Falcon at Hereford, on the 16th May, 1687, he gave directions for his will, which was immediately drawn, but he died before it was executed; he appointed his uncle, the alderman, and others, executors in trust for his four daughters and bequeathed to his mother a *great* guinea, and to his sisters a guinea each: his nuncupative will was proved first at Brecon and afterwards in the Commons.

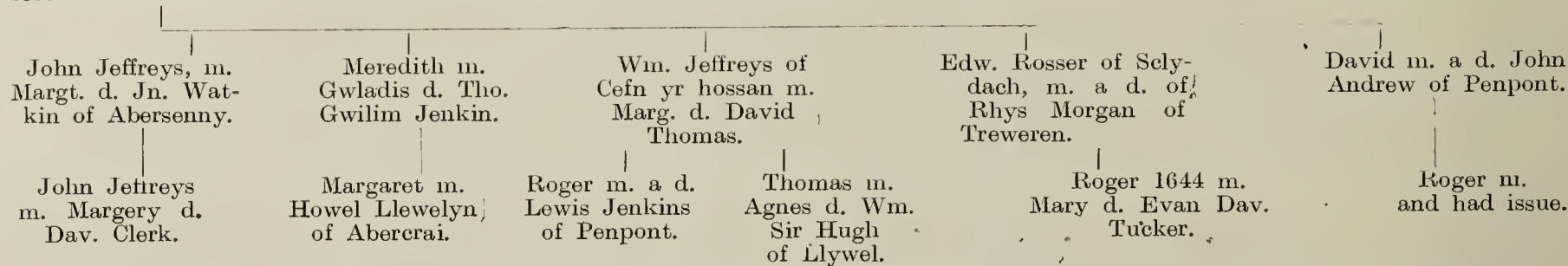


A. p. II. Evan Jeffreys married Jenet, daughter of William Howel of Llanspyddid, and left issue Walter Jeffreys, banker, *obit* 1746, S.P., William Jeffreys of Brecon and Gwernffrwd, *obit* 1724, S.P., Jane married William Ouseley, and Joan married Edward Williams, son of Edward Williams, attorney.

B. p. II. Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys of the Priory of Brecon and Saint Mary Axe, alderman of London, married Sarah, daughter of Nicholas Dawes; he died at Roehampton House (which he purchased soon after the death of the proprietor, the Countess of Devonshire) in 1707; his will was proved at Brecon and afterwards in the Commons.



C p. I. Roger Jeffreys, by his first wife, had a daughter, Margaret, who married William Watkins, and a son, Jeffrey Jeffreys; by his second he had



D p. I. David Jeffreys had by his second wife, Morgan, who married a daughter of Charles Walcot of Builth, esq., Thomas and Howel; by his first wife, a daughter who married Meredith Morgan, and Jeffrey, who in 1649 married a daughter of Morgan Prees Gwyn of Builth.

John Jeffreys m. Elizabeth daughter of Morgan Awbrey, ob. 1718.

Elizabeth m. David Lloyd of Rhosferig.

#### DR. HUGH PRICE, FOUNDER OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD.

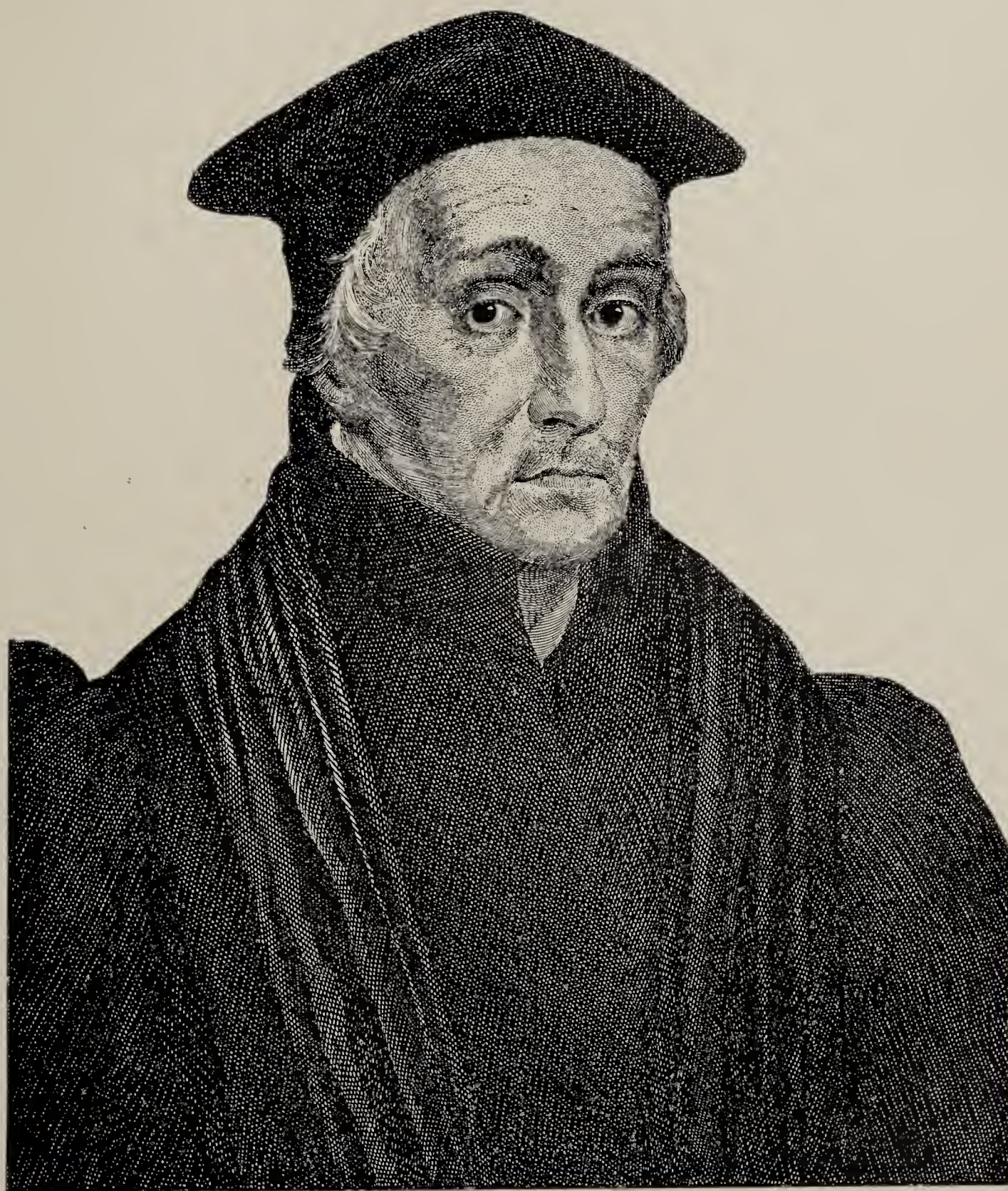
If it be any reproach to Brecon to have produced a man, who, though of great learning and talents, availed himself of the favour and the influence he possessed with his sovereign, to partake with him in the plunder of the church, this town may boast of one of the same surname, nearly contemporary with him, to whom literature and the present establishment are under considerable obligations. This was no other than the celebrated Dr Hugh Price, founder of Jesus college in Oxford; he was a native of Brecon and second son of Rhys y Cigwr, or the butcher, a member of the corporation of Brecon in 6 Henry 8th, and a party to the deed before mentioned between them and the chaplain of Saint Mary's. John ap Rhys y Cigwr, the doctor's eldest brother, was a tanner and a man of considerable property in Brecon; he died in 1573, possessed of a lease of the Priory lands, devised by his will to his son, whom he always takes care to describe by 'Mr. Walter Johns.' This instrument bears date 1559, but was not proved until the year before the doctor died, so that the elder brother only preceded his junior a few months; he desires to be buried in the *parish* of Brecknock, and acknowledges himself to be indebted to the vicar there 'for the tythes *insolut.* thees great while as pereth in yeres in his *cercuste* book';<sup>2</sup> but does not name the sum. 'Item (says he), I received of (Sir) Thomas Griffith sixe pounds of money, whereof I will that my brother and my sonne doe discharge (repay him) thereof, because I had them of him at Mr. Doctor's commandment towards the bying of my house at the water side; Item, I give to Gladis my daughter her fether bed which is with me in pleadge, the residue of my goods I doe give to Mr. Doctor Hughes and Mr. Walter Johns my sonne, and them both I do make my executors, Item, in deabts upon Hugh Thomas Waters recovered allredy in exccution in the towne court 5l.; of the which I will and desire Mr. Bayllyf to cause thereof to be paid to one Dyddgy, vz. Morgan, 3l. 6s. 8d., which I owe her of due debt, and the rest to my executors, Item, in debt upon Thomas ap Rhys vaine (T. ap Rhys the slender) a cow, worth upon his conscience<sup>3</sup> wytnes present Sir Thomas Gr. vicar Brechon, Phe Hadd (Philip Havard), Owen ap Rhys, and Thomas ap Rhys vaine, Item, upon examination he said that there was reckonings

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth, another daughter of Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys, married John Pratt, son of Sir John Pratt, chief justice of the court of king's bench, 5th Geo. I.

<sup>2</sup> What is meant by *cercuste* book, we are at a loss to determine, unless it be a corruption of circuit, and that again the remains of the Cylch Clera.

<sup>3</sup> That is, the testator had sold him a cow at the fair value or market price, which he left to the honour or conscience of the purchaser to name,





HUGH PRICE, LL.D.  
(FOUNDER OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD.)







between him and John ap Rhys *cymro* (or the Welshman), and could not declare yit prefectly for his paynes; here the scribe speaks and tells us, the testator informed them that there were accounts between him and his namesake, which, in consequence of increasing bodily pain, he was unable to state. This change from the first to the third person in the same will, was very common in those days. What became of Mr. Walter Johns or Jones, archdeacon of Brecon and chancellor of York, we know not, or whether his son Gervase Jones left any issue, probably the family left this country upon the latter preferment, though he is not named among the dignitaries of that cathedral by Drake; the descendants of Evan ap Rhys, the younger brother, perhaps still remain among us, but our former vile habit of changing the surnames has so completely concealed them, that the pursuit would be as endless as it would be idle, especially as no advantages attach to the founder's kin at Jesus College.

Of Dr. Hugh Price, we are sorry to observe that very little is known either at Oxford or Brecon; an inscription on the north side of one of the gates of Jesus college informs us that he was born at Brecon,

*Breconiaë natus, patriæ monumenta reliquit,  
Breconiaë populo signa sequenda pio.*

He is said to have been a monk of Osney in Oxfordshire, and one writer<sup>1</sup> adds that his uncle was a canon there; what authority there is for the first assertion or rather report, we know not. The latter is evidently erroneous; it does not appear that he had any relation of that description, and if he had, he was poor and probably illiterate, for the founder of the property of this family was most certainly Dr. Price's father, Rees ap Rees the butcher, who by his industry acquired such a fortune as to enable him to give his children a liberal education, and to leave to his eldest son a considerable landed estate. He took his degree of doctor of the canon law at Oxford in 1525, and was afterwards made prebendary of Rochester and treasurer of St. David's. In 1571 he obtained the Queen's leave to erect a college at Oxford by the name of 'Jesus college within the citie and universitie of Oxford, of *Queen Elizabeth's foundation*,'<sup>2</sup> and to endow it with lands and tenements of the annual value of sixty pounds, and some further privileges were granted to it in her successor's reign.<sup>3</sup> The expense of this building amounted in his lifetime to about fifteen hundred pounds; to which were added about three hundred pounds left in the hands of Sir Eubule Thelwall towards completing it.

#### HUGH PRICE'S WILL.

Gutch says, he conveyed upon the last day of June, 1574, in his life time, 'divers lands, messuages and tenements in Breconshire,' to the principal and fellows of this college, and refers to a document in the treasury there; after some inquiries upon this subject, we have not been able to discover it; and there are many reasons for supposing this to be an error. In the first place he was not possessed of lands in Breconshire at the time of his death to the value of sixty pounds per annum, he had then only a small tenement in Llanvihangel nant brân, now called Pwll Llaca, let at present at twenty pounds per annum, which still belongs to the college, and a few houses at Brecon, and it is clear from his will dated August 8th, 1574, that he had not then completed his intention, for after giving forty pounds to the cathedral of Rochester and forty pounds to 'Saint Davies,' he adds, "Item, I give and bequeath to Jesus college, within the universitie of Oxford, 100 marks and all my books, conditionally, that I remayne founder of the same college, Item, I give and bequeath to Jesus college, according to my promise in that behalf, sixty pounds by the yere for the exhibition of the scholars there and maintenance of the same house, and I will that the said summ of LX. lands by yere shall rise and be supplied and performed with the obligations and evidences that Mr. Doctor Lewis and Mr. Doctor Awbrey have in their hands and custody of mine, and the residue, over and above the same, if any doe remayn, to be delivered to mine executors, Item, I give and bequeath to the curate and minister that doth and shall say morning prayer or divine service dayly within our lady's chappel within the town of Brecon, the yearly rent that now is of my house which I bought of my brother John Aprice wherein dwelleth Watkin Thomas, baker, the said rent to continue and remayn to the Vicar of Brecknock or his deputy for his soe saying dayly service for ever, Item, I give and bequeath towards my burial and to be given to the poor the same day of my burial 26l. 13s. 4d.; Item, I give and bequeath towards the reparation of my house at Saint Davies 9l.; Item, all the residue of my lands, goods, chattels and effects whatsoever, I give and bequeath them holely to my executor to employ the same to such godly use as they shall think best, and I do ordaine, constitute, make and appoint Mr William Stock and Hugh ap Evan ap Price, my nephue, my hole lawful and only executors." So that the remainder of the lands settled upon the college were bought with the produce of his personals, and from a M.S. in the college, it appears that 400l. arising therefrom were

<sup>1</sup> Gutch in his *Antiquities of Oxford*.

<sup>2</sup> 13th Elizabeth, Rot, Escamb, 120.

<sup>3</sup> 19th James I.



delivered to Principal Griffith Powel, above fifty years after his decease, and by him laid out in the purchase of lands in Dorston in Herefordshire, from a Mr. Henry Rogers.

#### HIS BURIAL PLACE.

His will was proved in the Commons on the 31st of August, 1574,<sup>1</sup> it therefore must have been executed only a short time before his death, and from the witnesses, Thomas Hill, Thomas ap Jeuan, Walter John, Thomas ap Thomas, and Jeffrey Thomas, clerk, *all* resident in Brecknock, it is almost certain that he died in that town and was buried, as Brown Willis in a MS. note to his *Survey of St. David's* at the Bodleian suggests, at St. John's parish church, 'without any memorial as yet erected to his memory, though 'tis hoped the principal fellows of his foundation, as they have increased in wealth, will erect one worthy of themselves and of so great a founder;' to which we add hearty and we hope not ineffectual solicitation.

Wood observes that the arms *painted* in the margin of Dr. Price's will, gules a chevron ermine between three fleurs de lis *Or*, are not the arms adopted by Jesus College, though they acknowledge him as their founder; they had probably good reasons for not assuming them, for Dr. Price was, as Hugh Thomas says, speaking of another person, the first of his family (for several generations at least) who bore arms. This was the coat armour of 'Mr. Doctor Hughes,' one of the executors of his brother's will, of whom we know nothing further than that it should seem from thence, he was one of the descendants of the Herberts. The three stags trippant argent in a field vert, which are also seen in a plate of Dr. Price published some years back, are the arms of the families of Green and Greenly; why they are here introduced, some of the English heralds may explain, we are at a loss to account for their appearance.

#### THE HAVARDS OF PONTWILYM.

Another family of note in Brecon and the neighbourhood were the Havards,<sup>2</sup> and though they are no longer settled at Pontwilym, now a farm house, about one mile northward of the Priory, yet as they have multiplied their species, and their name is more frequently heard in Breconshire at this day than any other of the followers of Bernard Newmarch; and as they are now so completely dispersed that they cannot be confined to any particular precinct, the mansion where they first settled may be considered as their proper habitation for the purpose at least of introducing their genealogy.

The last resident of this name at Pontwilym was Thomas Havard, sheriff of Breconshire in 1549 and 1555. In 1543, Thomas Havard (perhaps the same) occurs as sheriff, and is described as of Cwrt Sion Young. The site of this mansion, which appears to have been surrounded by a mote, is apparent on the left hand side of the road leading to Battle, near the turnpike house. We have several conveyances of this property during the reigns of Edward 3d, Richard 2d, and Henry 4th, to the family of Young, by the first of which, dated on Sunday next after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope, 36th Edward 3, William le Yonge releases to his son John Yonge his claim to lands in Brecon, which would descend to him on the death of Sir Thomas ap Rhys; several others follow, one from Cecil, daughter of John Bischope, of Brecon, to different persons of the family of Yonge, all describing Cwrt Sion Yonge (though not so named) as bounded by the highway leading to *Limepite*, the Lime-pits or Pyllau Calch, and by indenture, dated 7th Henry 4, not quite as long as the charter of Brecon, John Young of Brecon, conveyed to John Havard the younger and Alice Wgan, his wife, this tenement by the description of 'unu curtilagiu cum pertinenciis in suburbis Ville Brechie vid apud holde port jacen in latitudie a tenemeto qd. David ap Phillip ap Hoel, quondam tenuit usq. ad gardinu antedci Johis Yonge in longitudie vero de via ducente de Oldeporte vsus Lympute vsus Gardinu pfati Johis Havard que vocat. Dubiorde.<sup>3</sup> This deed is attested by Thomas ap David, bailiff of Brecon, Roger Batte sub-bailiff, David ap Thomas, clerk of the town aforesaid, John Havard senior, and Rees ap Jenkin; the seal appendant has the Virgin and Child, with an inscription round the margin, which we have not been able to decypher, and on the other side of the wax is the impression of a large human front tooth.

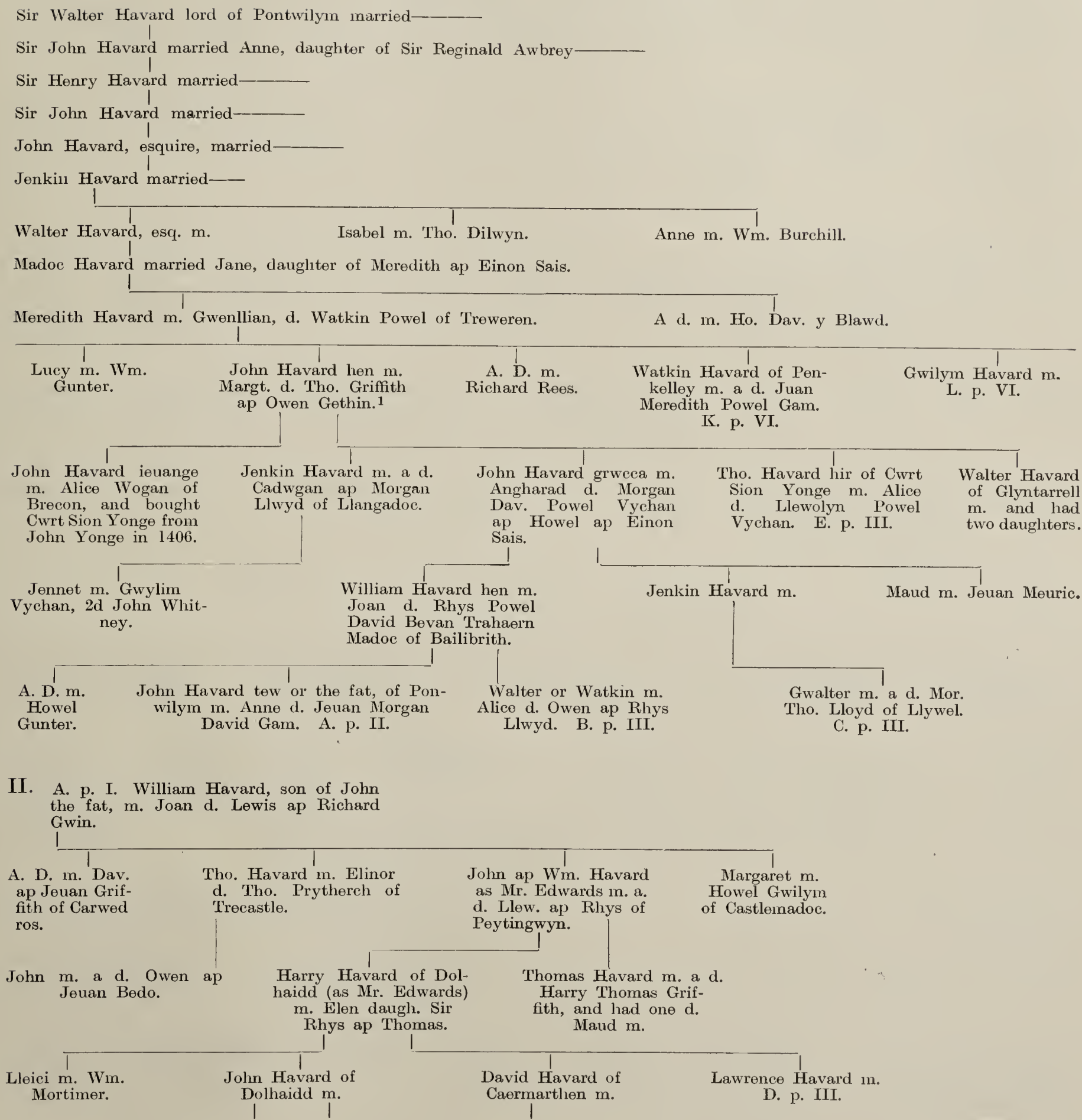
<sup>1</sup> Hugh Prees or Price was Bailiff of Brecon in 1572. We are inclined to think this was the founder of Jesus College; there can be little if any doubt as to his death in this town in 1574.

<sup>2</sup> This name seems to be a corruption or abbreviation of De Havre or Havre de Grace, and designates the port or town in Normandy from whence our first Havard came.

<sup>3</sup> Tyr y Priordy forsitan, i.e., The Priory Land.



## HAVARD OF PONTWILYM, &amp;c.

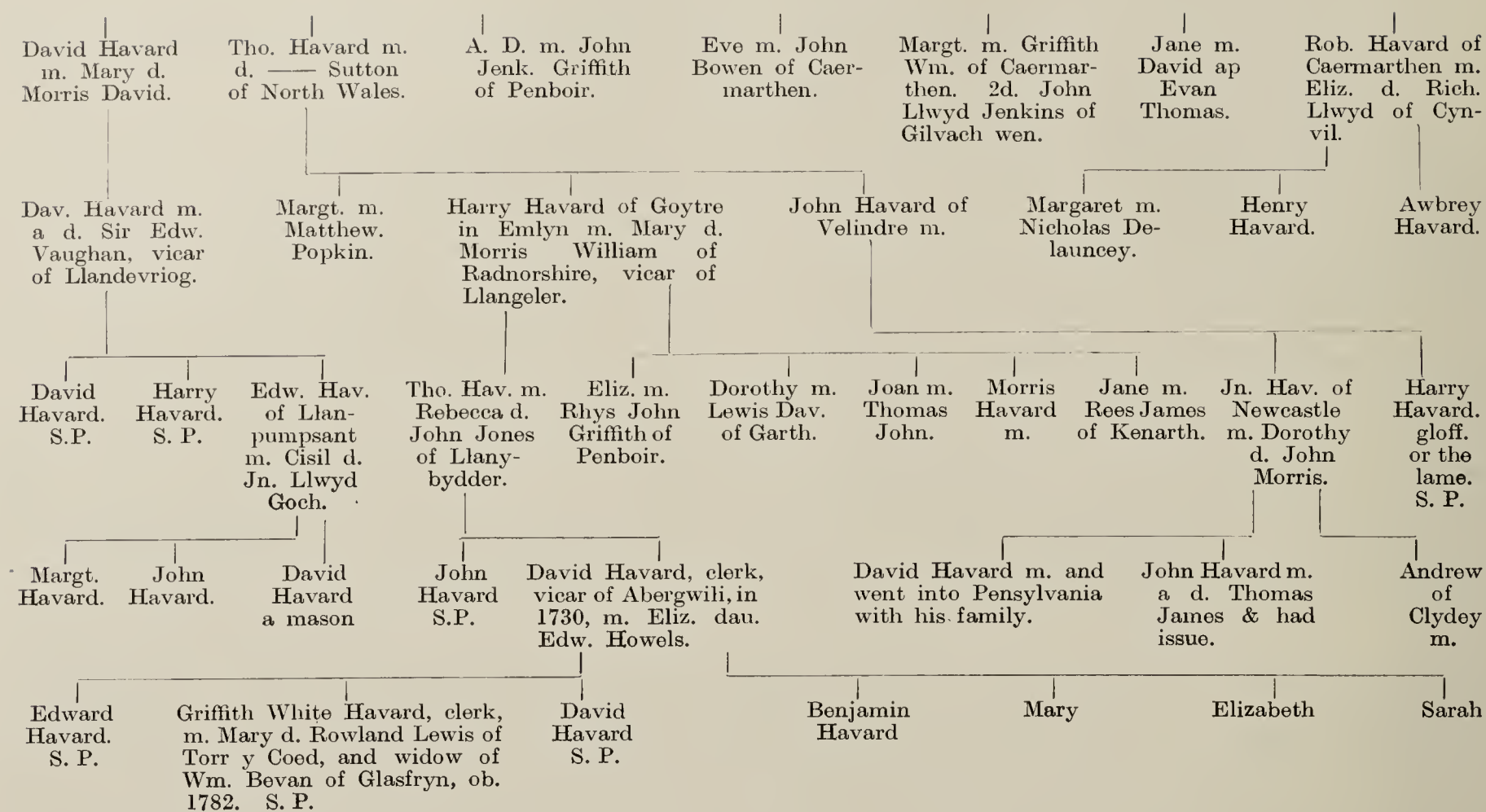


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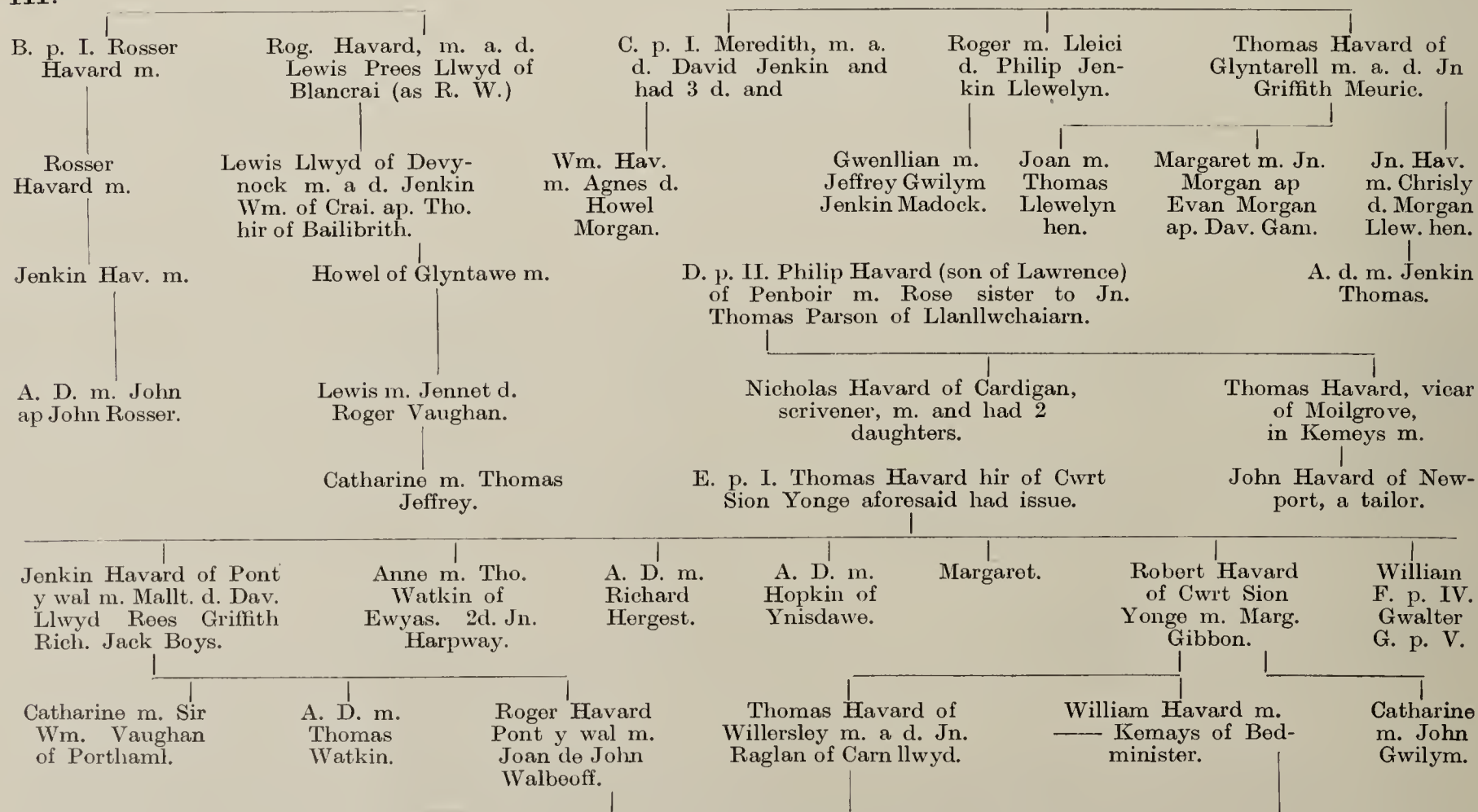
<sup>1</sup> In the MS. from which this pedigree is copied, this John is called Jenkin Havard hen, and he is said to have had a brother of the said name, called Jenkin Havard ieuange; old Jenkin Havard is also therein said to have married Alice, daughter of Watkin Wogan, but this is certainly incorrect, as we have in our possession the conveyance of Cwrt Sion Yonge to young John Havard and Alice Wogan his wife, attested by his father, old John Havard. The abbreviation in MSS. in Wales for Jeuan, Evan or John and Jenkin, are so nearly alike, that the error may be easily accounted for. On the death of young John, S.P., John Havard the deformed, succeeded to Pontwilym, and Thomas the tall to Cwrt Sion Yonge.



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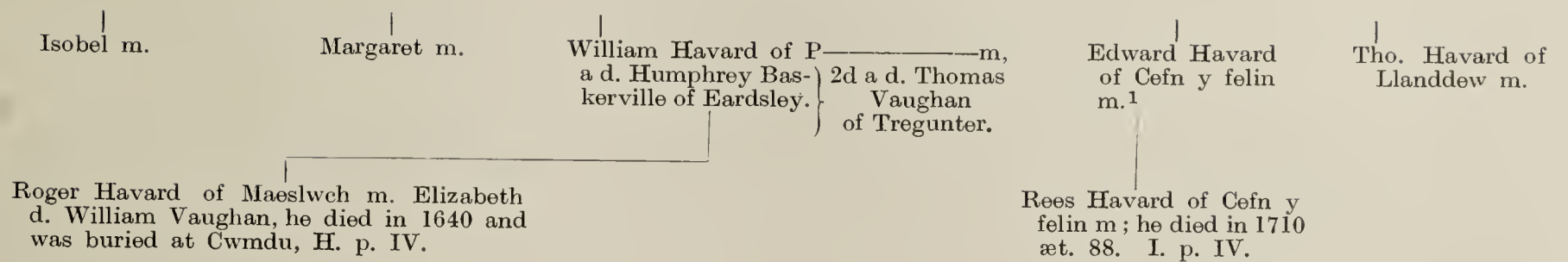
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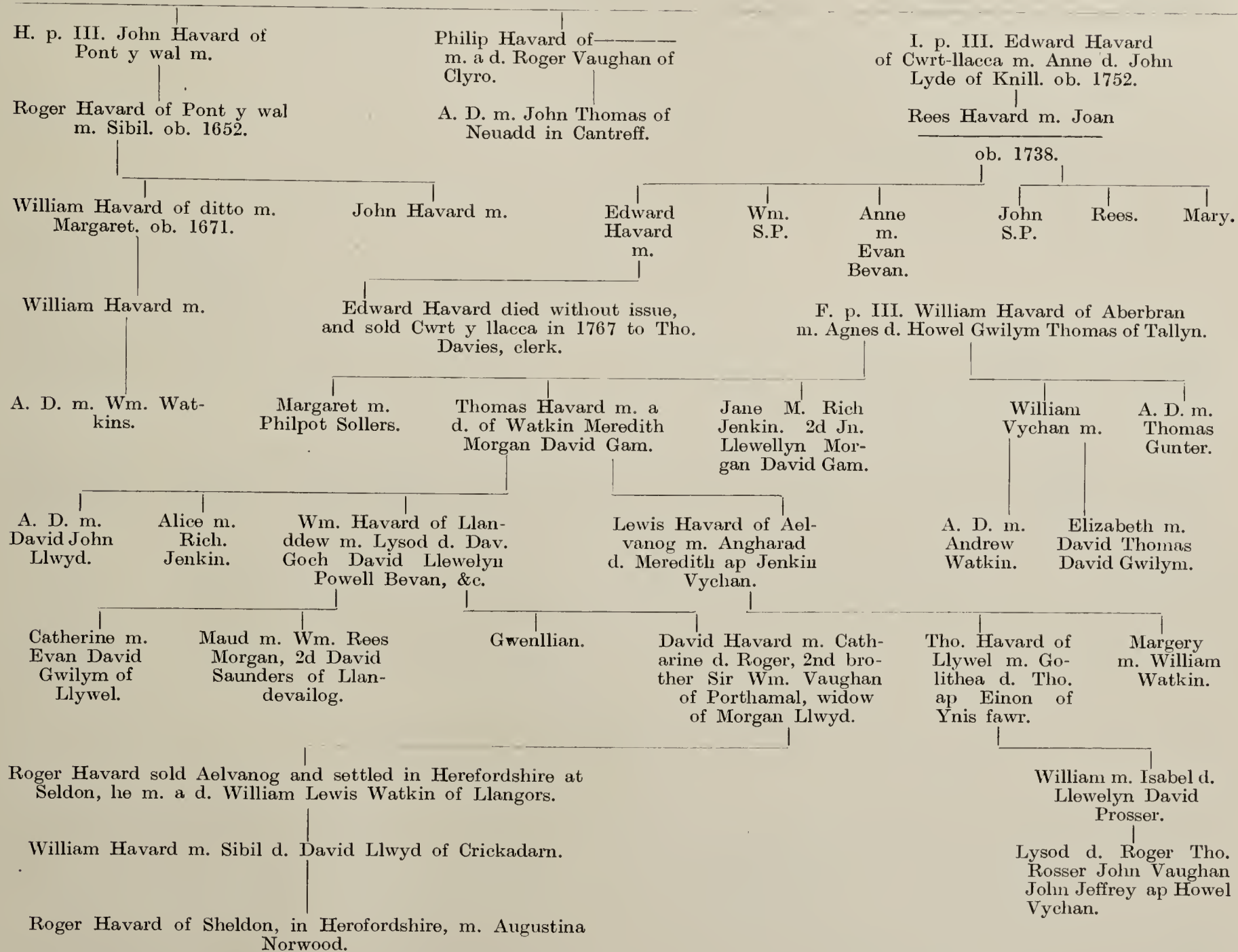
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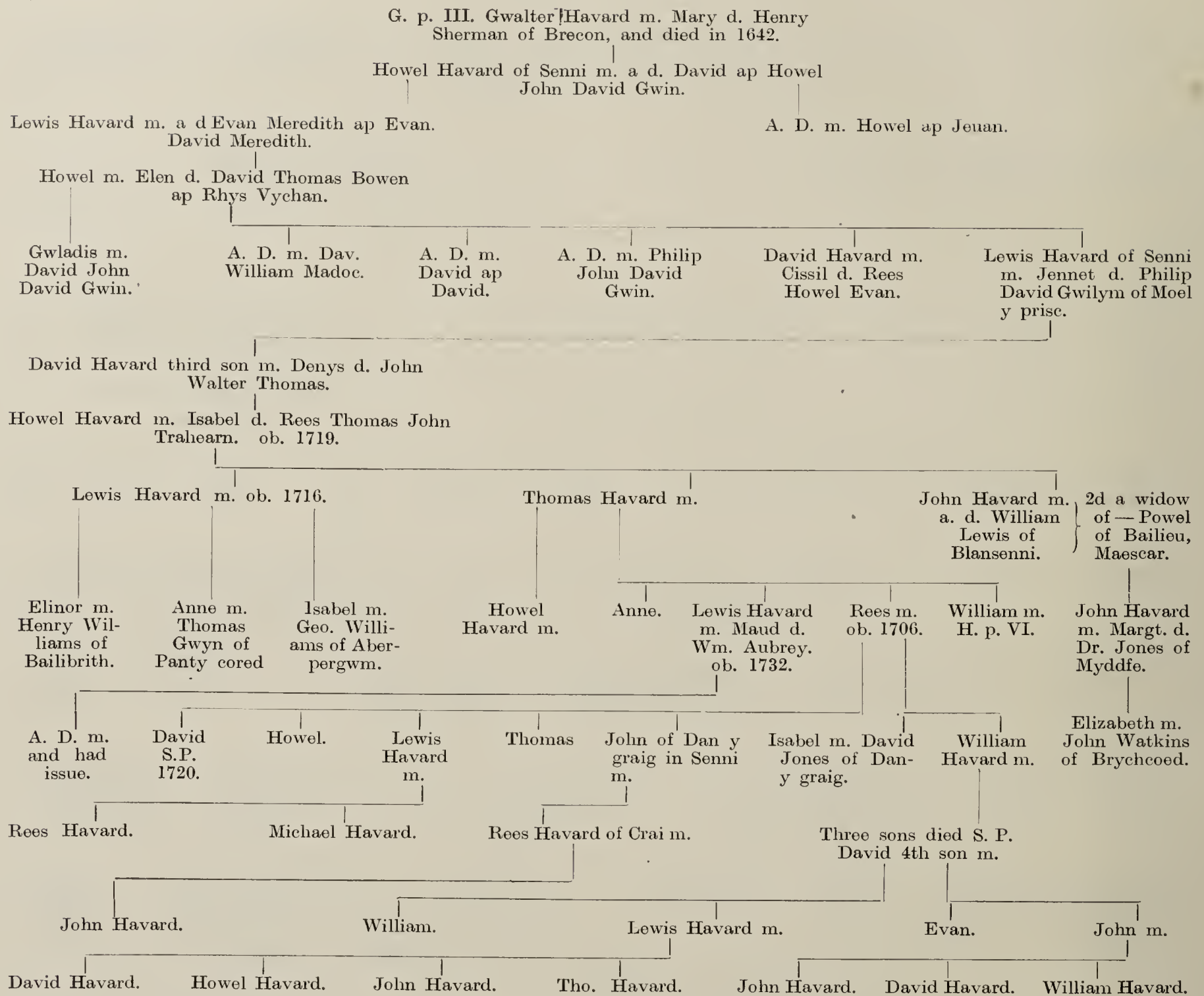
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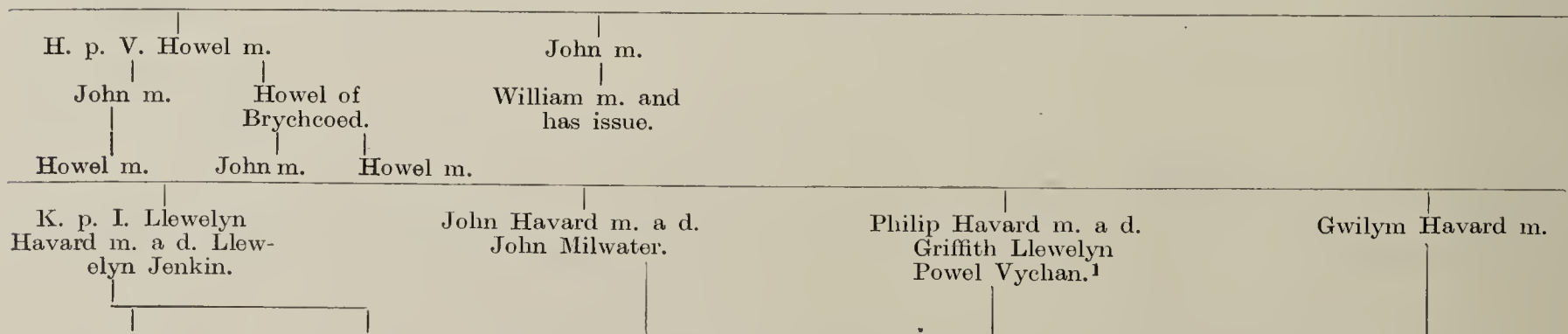
<sup>1</sup> Edward Havard was a younger son ; the eldest settled in Herefordshire, where many of his descendants continue to this day.



## V.



## VI.

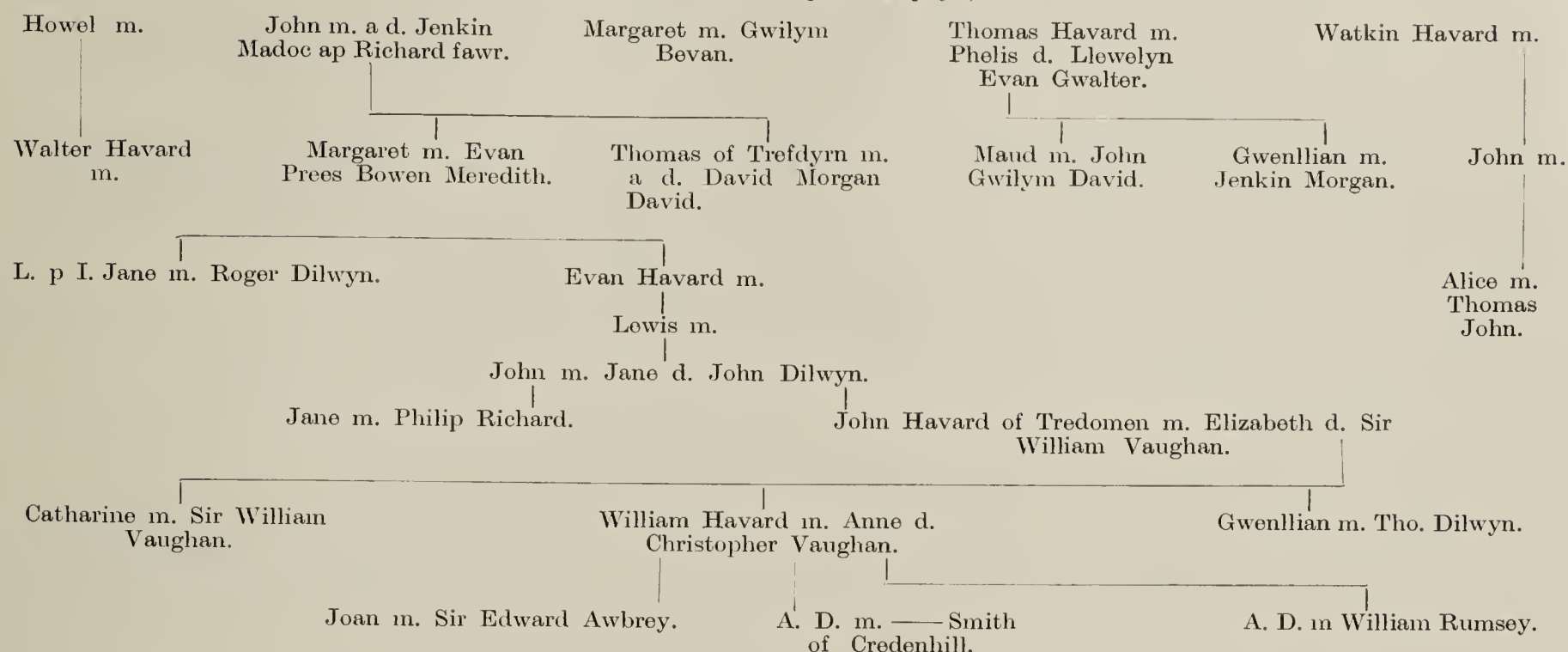


(See next page.)

<sup>1</sup> He was of Tredustan, and married Jane, daughter of Sir Roger Vaughan, he left issue besides, Thomas, John, Roger, and four daughters, he had a cousin, Hugh Havard, N.P. of Llanfaes, where some of the family now remain.—A branch of the family are omitted in this pedigree, Philip Havard, first bailiff of Brecon, under the charter of Philip and Mary, Hugh Havard, bailiff in 1588, and their descendents are not noticed; Philip Havard of Brecon is, however, in the Gamos pedigree said to have been a natural brother of Thomas Havard of Herefordshire, sheriff of Brecknockshire in 1549 and 1555.



(Continued from previous page.)



## A MANSION AT PENNANT.

About a mile westward of Cwrt Sion Yonge *was* Pennant<sup>1</sup> (for it is now, 1805, in ruins), for a few years the seat of gaiety, revelry, and voluptuous enjoyment, the transient abode of dissipation and extravagance, the banqueting room of Bacchus, the couch of illicit love, and consequently the cradle of poverty, misery, and ruin. In 1598 it was called Llwyncelin (or the Holly-bush), and was the property of Meredith Morgan, chancellor of St. David's; he had issue, Marmaduke Morgan, who married Anne, the daughter of James Pennoyre, of the Moor, in Herefordshire, widow of Evan Gwyn, of Garth, gent.; she married thirdly Meredith Lewis, of Brecon, a descendant of Lewis of Frwdgrech, who by her influence persuaded Matthew Morgan, her son by the second husband (*a natural innocent*, as a MS. calls him), to sell the estate to him for a mere song. What became of this Matthew Morgan afterwards we have not been able to learn, save that he married Mary Walcott, of Builth, and had issue.

Old fashioned writers would insist upon it, perhaps with much truth, that the interference of providence was evident in the punishment, even on this side of the grave, of the party committing this fraud; they would instance his being sent childless hence, they would remark that his name and posterity, in the male line, soon perished, they would point to the frequent change of proprietors of this estate, and probably conclude in the words of a Welsh poet, with a reflection on the instability of wealth thus wickedly acquired.

Yn ol hir ymhaeru gwaith angall, a thyngu  
Trwy'r trwch, a gortrechu a gwasgu ar y gwan;  
Y geiniog oedd gymeu heb lwydo yn ei flodeu,  
*Fel dwr o rhidyllen a red allan.*

Edw. Richards.

The meaning of which is that after long perseverance in the works of darkness, supporting them by perjury, through thick and thin, and oppressing the poor, the penny thus gained, which just now was bright and free from rust, dissolves suddenly *and departs like drops of water through a sieve*.

## MEREDITH AND LODOWICK LEWIS'S FAMILY.

Meredith Lewis, sheriff of Breconshire in 1654, by his will devised Pennant and the remainder of his property to his nephew, Lodowick Lewis, who left three daughters, two died without issue, Annic, the second daughter, married Owen Evans, archdeacon of Cardigan, by whom she had Owen Evans, esquire, who married Elizabeth Williams, daughter of Thomas Williams of Taley, by Frances, daughter of Judge Lloyd of Crickadarn. The last named Owen Evans had by his wife four children, Lloyd Evans, Lodowick Evans, Thomas Evans, and Elizabeth Evans; the two first died infants: Thomas Evans lived to be within fifty and sixty, and died single. During his life, the estate (which had been deeply involved by his father) through inattention and mismanagement was squandered away; the mansion house of Pennant, and the property in the vicinity of Brecon was mortgaged to, and afterwards the equity of redemption foreclosed by Michael Cope Hopton, esq., who now (1805) possesses it.

<sup>1</sup> There is a farm house now (1908) known as Pennant.



Elizabeth, the daughter of the last-named Owen Evans, married Francis Lewis, a lieutenant in the army, by whom she had two daughters, one married William Courtenay of Kington, and died without issue, the other was living in London, and married to William Simmonds, a cabinet maker, by whom she had several children.

To return to Brecon (though we have not quitted the parish of Saint John the Evangelist), the families longest settled there, exclusive of that of Jeffreys of Llywel and the Williamses of Abercamlais, Penpont and Aberbrân, who will be more properly noticed when we come to Llanspyddid, are Wynter, formerly of Lydney and the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire; Morgan, formerly of Penderin; and Wilkins, heretofore of Lanquian, &c., near Cowbridge in Glamorganshire.

### WYNTER OR WINTER, OF BRECON.

Walter, or as others William, came into Dyfed with Arnulph de Belesmo, 4 W. 2, and married Gwenllian, daughter of Gwilym ap Aeddan, Lord of Castell gwyn.

William Wynter married—

David Wynter, of Caermarthen married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Wm. Perrott.

Morgan Wynter, of Rhyd y gors, married and had issue  
Joan, who married David Griffith ap Gronw goch.

Jenkin Wynter, married Angharad, daughter  
of Philip Vychan, of Edwinsford.

David Wynter married Jane daughter of Sir John Morgan, knight.

Owen Wynter m. Eliz.  
d. Dav. Meuric of  
Cilewm.

Morris W. m. J. d.  
Sir Peter Barret.<sup>1</sup>

Gwenllian m. Owen ap  
Meredith of Pwll-  
dufarch.

Walter m. a d. Meredith  
Gam.

William Wynter, married Margaret, daughter of Philip Jordan.

Jenkin Wynter, Lord of Maenorgain, married—

Elizabeth Wynter, married Richard Read—second ——— Fisher

A son ——— Fisher, otherwise Wynter, married—

William Wynter, otherwise Fisher, married—

Fisher, alias Wynter.

Lewis Wynter, of the Forest of Doan, Gloucestershire,  
m.—Earsley, A.p. II.

### II.

A. p. I. Andrew Wynter of  
Brecon m. Cissil d. Matthew  
Walter, last bailiff there  
under the Duke of Bucking-  
ham.

Lewis Wynter of Cantref,  
M.D. m. a d. ——— Boulcott.

Sir William Wynter, Lord High  
Admiral of England to Henry  
VIII. and Elizabeth m. Eliz.  
d. Sir Wm. Tyrell.

Walter Wynter, barrister m.  
Margt. d. and h. Jn. Walwyn  
of Brecon, by Gwladis d.  
Gwilym Morgan of Trallong.

Margaret m.  
Roger Vaughan  
of Cathedine.

John Wynter m. a d.  
Howel David Prosser  
of Gaer.

Sir Andrew Wynter of Lynd  
m. Mary d. Sir Andrew  
Chyd of Lydney.

Wm. Wynter of Llan-  
vihangeltallyn m.  
Blanch d. Anthony Dew  
of Herefordshire.

Edward Wynter.

William Wynter of  
Brecon apothecary m.  
Margt. d. Phil. Jones  
of Edwin.

Sir William Wynter knt. m.  
Anne d. Edw. Somerset, earl  
of Worcester. ob. 1627.<sup>2</sup>

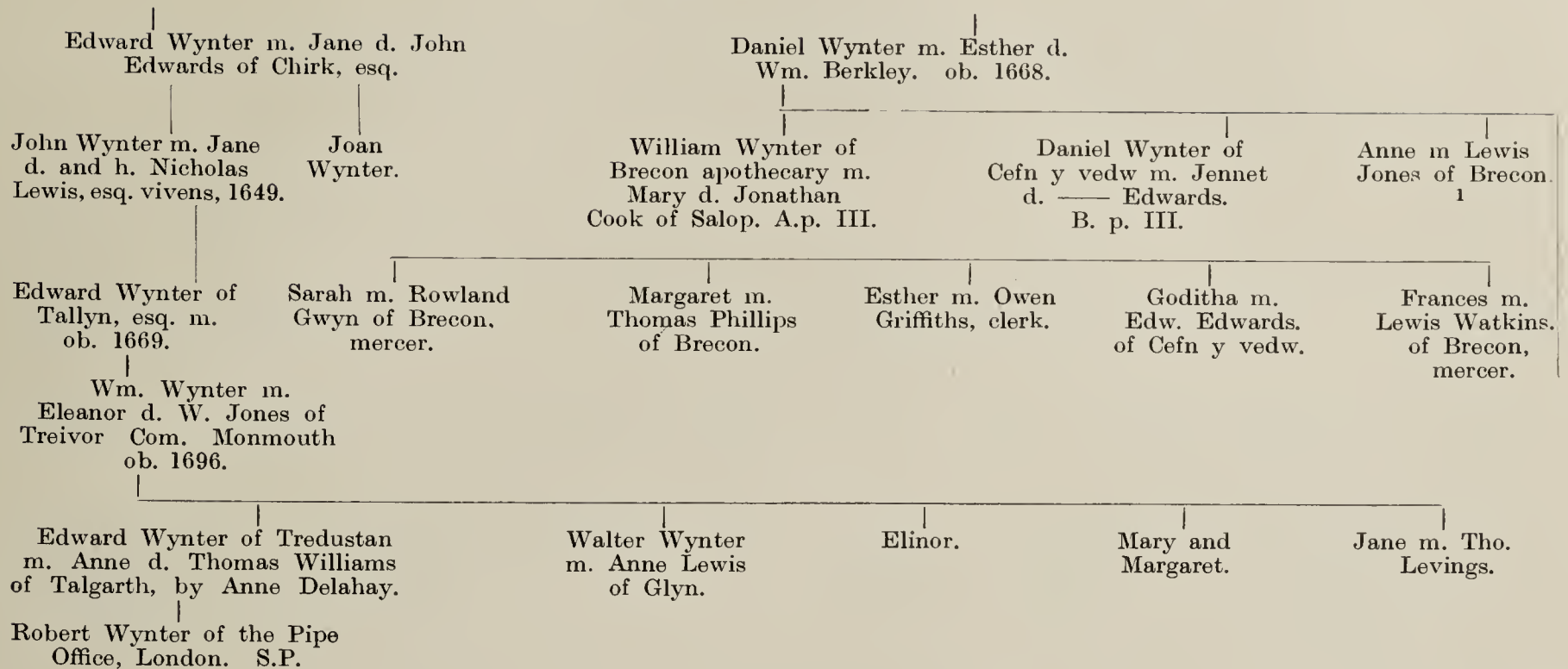
(See next page.)

<sup>1</sup> Another pedigree makes Morris the father of Owen, who had issue William Wynter, married Jennet, daughter of Griffith ap Cadwgan, of Escirgaib, who had issue Jenkin Wynter, of Pentre Ritsiart, Pembrokehire, married Agnes Phillips, who had issue Walter Wynter, married Elizabeth, daughter Jenkin ap Rhys, who had issue Edward Winter, married Joan Lloyd of Glyn Aeron, who had issue Philip Wynter of Castell Garthen, married and had issue. Griffith Wynter married a daughter and heiress of Richard Fisher, of Cwmerddin, by whom he had William Wynter of Laugharne, who married a daughter of David ap Howel Morgan ddu, of Llangadock, by whom he had, according to this chart, Lewis Wynter of the Forest of Dean.

<sup>2</sup> Atkins in his Gloucestershire, and Edmondson in his Baronage call this Andrew, Edward, and the former omits the second Sir William. Atkins says Sir Edward had issue Sir John Wintour Lidney, a celebrated loyalist in the time of Charles I. who had issue Sir Charles Wintour.



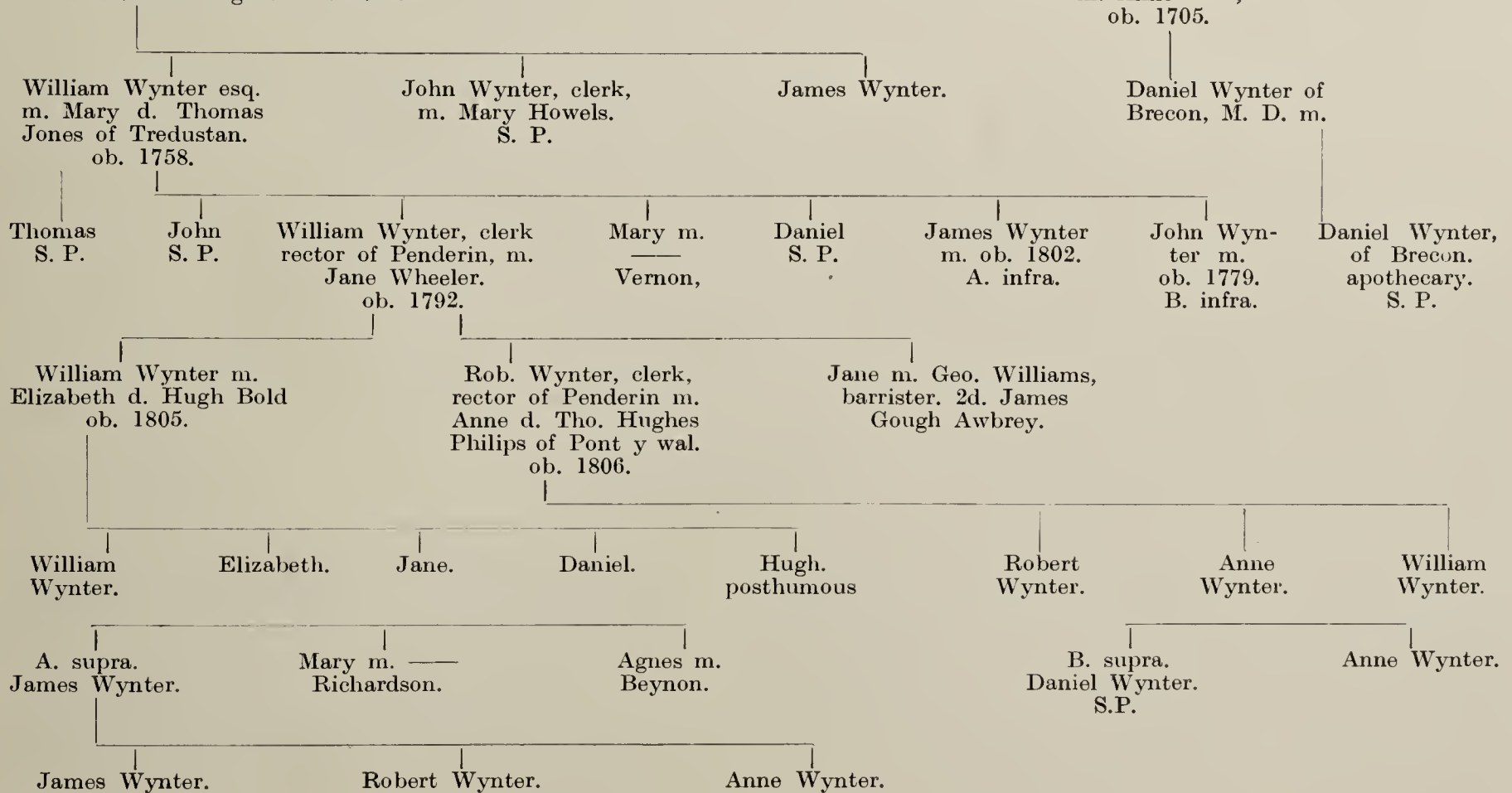
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## III.

A p. II. Daniel Wynter, M. B. m. Anne d. Richard James of Llwynbered, in Llanigon. ob. 1725.

B. p. II. William Wynter, of Brecon, m. Anne —, ob. 1705.



It is remarkable, that though this family do not appear to have settled in Breconshire until the reign of Henry the 8th in the charter to the borough, by the first *Stafford*, duke of Buckingham, in 1448, among the burgesses is the name of Benedict Wynter.

<sup>1</sup> They had issue one son, Wynter Jones, of Brecon, attorney, who died in 1668.

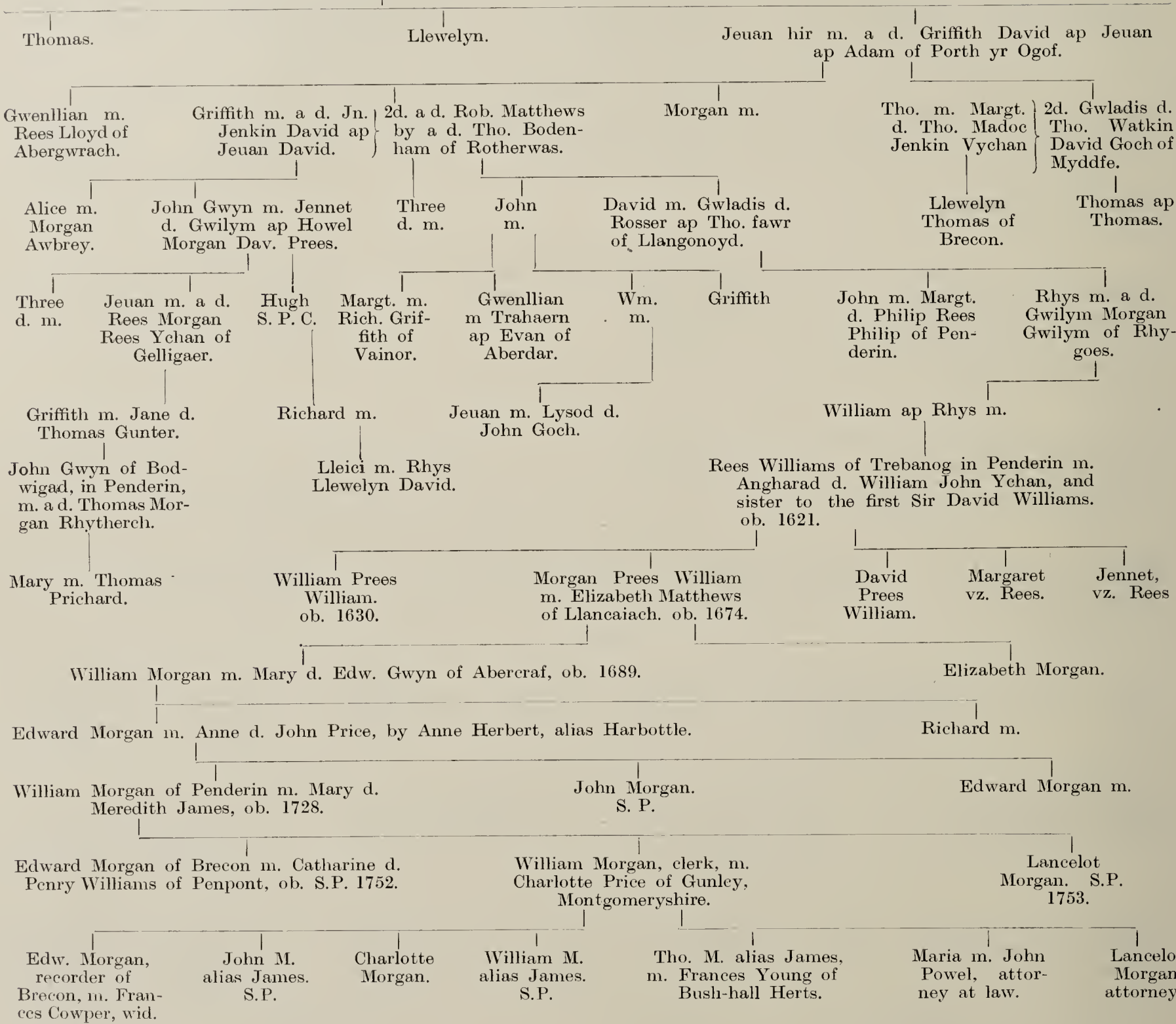


I.

MORGAN OF PENDERIN, AND OF BRECON.

The same as Sir David Gam, inclusive. (Sec Garthbrenghy.)

Morgan, son of Sir David Gam, m. 2d, Margt. d. Llewelyn Gwilym Rees Lloyd of Porth yr ogof.





## I.

## WILKINS OF LANQUIAN, OF BRECKNOCK, AND BRISTOL.

Robert de Wintona or Wincestria came to Glam. with Robert Fitzhamon, m.

Nicholas de Wintona m.——

Michael de Wintona m.——

Wilklyne de Wintona m.——

William de Wincestria, cotemporary with Hamon Turbeville m.——

Wm. de Winc. *ut alii* cotemp. with Rich. son of Gilb. Turbeville, Temp. E. 1 and 2, m.

John de Wincestria *script.* de Wincestre, lord of Landough m.——

Robert Winchester, lord of Landough m.——

Catharine m. David  
Llewelyn Philip, Caer-  
marthenshire.

William of Winchester m.  
Anne d. Hopkin Vaughan.

John dictus Wilcoline aut Wilkyn m.  
Gwenllian d. Griffith Gethin, temp. E 3.

Annie m. William Neverber, Lord of  
Castleton, 13. E 2.

John Wilcolyne or Wilkyn, vixit temp. E. 3 and 4 R.  
2. m. Isabel d. John Raleigh.

John Wilkyn m. Anne d. Howel Carne.

Richard Wilkyn m. Jennot d. Thomas Madoe of Llanfair, vix. 18, H. 7, 1505.

Thomas Wilkyn m. Gwenllian d. Jenkin ap Richard ap Howel of Lansanor, ob. 1558.

{ Thomas Wilkyn, rector of Porthkerry and St. Mary's church, m. Eliz. d. Lewis Harry of Lancadle. 2d, Margaret }  
{ d. Morgan ap James Matthews of Roos, ob. 1623. }

Roger Wilkins m. Blanch d. Christoph. Gaynor of St. Bride's Monm. ob. 1648.

Tho. Wilkins, L.L.B., R. St. Mary's church, m. Jane d. T. Carne of Nash, ob. 1698.

Thomas Wilkins, prothonotary on } he m. 2d, Anne d. Mere- } 3d, Esther Shrenton  
the Brecon circuit, m. Anne d. Rich. } dith Bowen of Llan y } of London. S. P.  
Cann of Compton, Glouc. A p. II. } wern. B p. II.

Thomas Wilkins, the last of the name, rector of St. Mary's church, had, besides the Prothonotary, Roger Wilkins, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Lowis of Llanishen, by whom he had one daughter, Jane. The third son of Thomas was John, who married Jennet, daughter of Walter Morgan, (from whom Wilkins, now of Lantwit, &c.) by whom he had John, Mary, and Edward Wilkins. Gaynor and Blanch, two daughters of Thomas Wilkins, died single.

## II.

A p I. Cann Wilkins m. Mary Sparrow d. Mrs.  
Anne Morgan of St. George's by a first husband

Annio Wilkins,  
ob. 1706.

Tho. Wilkins Morgan  
m. Elizabeth d. Eben-  
ezer Mussell, by Eliz.  
d. Sir Jn. Davie of  
Crediton.

Richard Wilkins m.  
Cordelia d. Conyers  
place of Mornhill, in  
Dorsetshire.

Annie m. John  
Howe of Chip-  
penham, S.P.

George Wilkins, clerk,  
m. Mary d. John Din-  
widdie, S.P. 2d.  
Johanna d. John  
Wilkins.

3d Anne d.  
Jn. Thomp-  
son of Bristol

Elizabeth m.  
Bates.

Cann Wilkins  
died young.  
S.P.

Jane m. John  
Parry Wilkins.

Cann  
Wilkins.

Mary  
Anne.  
S.P.

George  
Wilkins

Harriet  
Wilkins

Thomas  
Wilkins

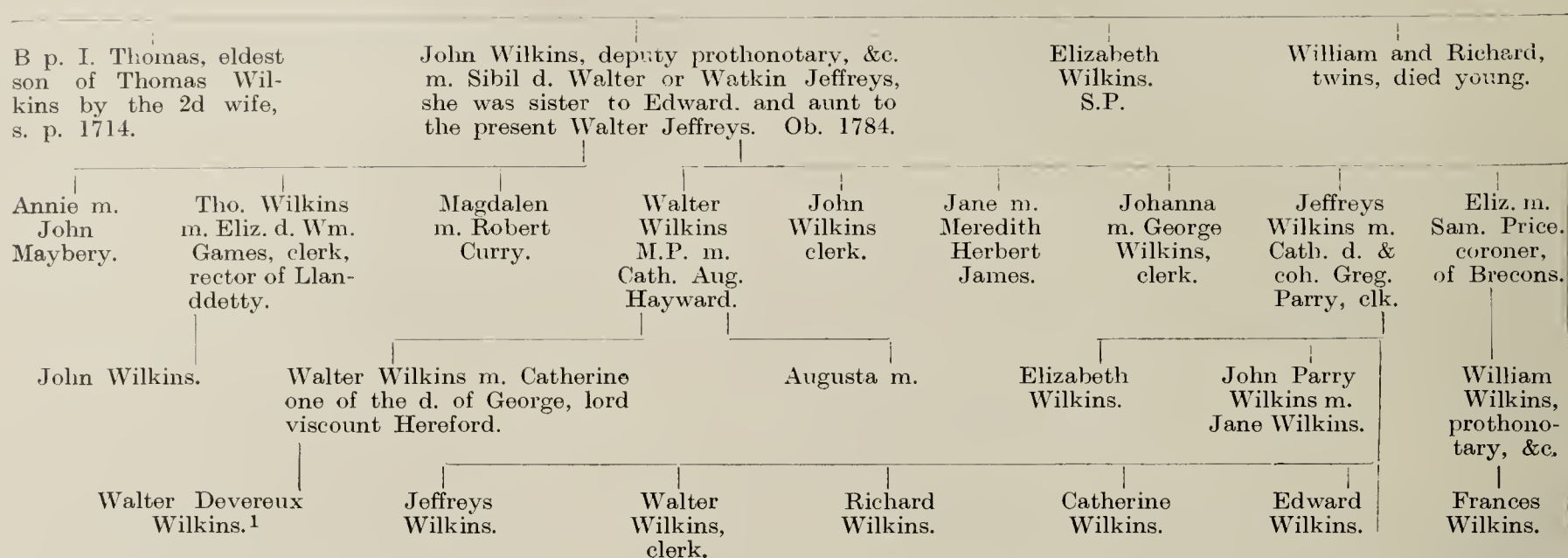
Wm.  
Wilkins

Mr. Cann Wilkins had also by his first wife, M. Sparrow, nine other children, who died young; his son Thomas, by a second wife, Mary Thompson, had one daughter, Mary Anne, now living, but unmarried; his son George is married to a 4th wife, Elizabeth Spencer, widow, by whom he has no issue.

(See next page.)



(Continued from previous page.)



Besides the above, many individuals have acquired by application and industry in their professions or employments considerable wealth and influence, and are continually rising into weight and importance from the purchases they have made and are making in the vicinity, but in no view are they more commendable than in the general spirit of improvement of the soil, which has of late years distinguished the gentlemen of Brecon, and which leads us into a short consideration of that subject.

We have before observed that the ground on the Usk side is remarkably porous and consequently that it requires a great quantity of rain to procure good crops; fortunately for us at Brecon, from our contiguity to the Beacons, more falls here than upon large and extensive plains. When we are deprived of this blessing, the pastures and hay ground, which are principally on the south side of the Honddu, and north of the Usk, are sometimes so extremely unproductive, that in a very dry summer three acres of meadow kept up during the spring, have not given half a ton of hay. The soil of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, north of Honddu, is chiefly arable land, and is rather more argillaceous than that on the Usk side; no minerals, fossils, metallic substances or coal, have been discovered within this precinct. Indeed, it is impossible that the latter should ever appear, as the lime bursts out at Venni vach wood and upon Pen y crug, and is now worked and burnt by Messrs Maund. It is the second best for water cement in the county, that part of the same vein which is found at Pen y lan near Clos y coed being the first. Upon analysis of the Venny vach limestone, one hundred parts consist nearly of the following ingredients:

Carbonate of lime	..	..	..	75	2
Water	..	..	..	0	3
Sulphate of lime	..	..	..	0	43
Residuum, consisting of argill, silex	}			24	0
and oxide of iron					

## THE VENNI AND PRIORY GROVES.

Within this part of the parish are two beautiful groves of wood, one of them (Venni) extremely picturesque, and displaying on the banks of the Usk scenes, which, if they were oftener frequented and explored, would be more admired than even those of the other, the Priory grove, which, however, is a great ornament to the vicinity of the town. This wood was formerly preserved, by the late Mrs. Maybery, with great care, and walks cut through it in various directions; it has since been much neglected. Lord Camden, however, has in his last visit to the mansion of his maternal ancestors, greatly improved them, and should he, as it is said, make this his occasional residence, proper attention, no doubt, will be paid to the beauties of this little glen.

## RIVERS OF THE PARISH.

Within this parish two rivers empty themselves into the Usk, the Honddu and the Brynich; a third falls in on the confines, the Escir, but that will be more properly noticed when the parish to which it gives its name is under review.

<sup>1</sup> Referring to this, Jones adds in his corrections: Walter Devereux Wilkins, the son of Walter Wilkins, the younger and wife, died an infant; they have at present an only daughter.



Honddu, which from its conflux with the Usk has given this town its Welsh name, is readily derived from Avon ddu, the black river; this will immediately satisfy the generality of my Welsh readers, the etymologist will, however, exclaim that Avon is a corruption of the Celtic *Aw*, or *Awm*, water, while others, to whose opinions we incline, will derive it from Hawn-ddu, the rapid black stream: this definition is peculiarly descriptive of its course from its rise on the Epynt, about two miles above the upper chapel in Merthyr Cynog to its junction with the Usk. Over this river, within the town of Brecon, are three bridges, the upper bridge leading to the Priory is of stone, consists of two arches, and is repaired by the inhabitants of the borough of Brecon; it is a very old bridge though the date of its erection is not known, very narrow and inconvenient, and the form of the arches extremely clumsy, despising the rules of modern architecture. But it is *old*, and this is of great consequence as to bridges, which should not be touched but in cases of absolute necessity, for notwithstanding the common idea that the ancients were better workmen, or possessed some secret as to mixing the lime is now properly exploded, yet there can be no doubt that time alone will effect that apparent mystery, the effects of which art will in vain seek to acquire. The next bridge below on the Honddu was once private property and led to the castle; it is now public, but repaired by the lord of the manor of Brecon. It is of two arches, with an immense thick wall in the middle, for it can hardly be called a pillar, supporting formerly a drawbridge, but whether it was double or only covered the span of one of the present arches is not known. The third bridge over the Honddu near its junction with the Usk, is of three heavy arches, and is repaired by the inhabitants of the borough.

Usk bridge (says Leland, Itin vol. 5, p. 57) at Brekenoc, was thrown down by the rage of Wsk water, anno 26 Henrici 8, die, S. Hugonis, it was not by rain but by snow melted that came out of the mountains; the water ran forward about the toppe of the Hy bridge and the circle marke apperithe almost to the middle waul of the Black Freres cloistre.' Leland here has established the fall of an old bridge over Usk, which preceded the present, and that it was thrown down by a flood upon the fifteenth of November, 1535; if so, the inhabitants either erected a temporary wooden bridge or remained without one for nearly thirty years, as we find from the following lame stanza, that the present structure was built in 1563.

Mil oedd oedran Iesu lle molant,  
Trugain a thri mwy na phumeant,  
Y gnawd peth difethiant,  
Pont ar Wyse mi rho' gof i gant.

(Namely, one thousand years after Christ, according to the computation where he is worshipped, sixty and three more than five hundred, an imperishable work was effected: a bridge upon Usk, we'll call hundreds to the recollection of it.) This bridge was so extremely narrow and inconvenient to the public when travelling and commerce increased, being the great thoroughfare through the county, that in 1794 it was considerably widened, so that two waggons may now, with ease, repass each other while driven over it, but even this convenience, imperiously as it was called for, was not obtained without peril, for though the ablest bridge builder the principality ever produced was employed in it part of the new work or piers fell down. It was, it is true, soon afterwards repaired, but it must remain some years before the architect will venture to pronounce the facings to the current and their foundations perfectly secure. This bridge is repaired principally by the town and partly by the county; whenever twenty-five pounds are necessary to be expended upon it, the inhabitants of the county pay twenty-four pounds and the borough the remaining one pound, and in the same proportion when any greater or lesser sum is required.

Brynich, the other river, mentioned to fall into the Usk in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, is on the eastern side, about one mile below the Watton turnpike gate; it is a small insignificant stream, and would hardly have been noticed if it had not formed part of our plan to give the names at least of most rivulets in the county, and if it did not show the great uncertainty of etymology. *Bryn* is a hill and *eich* is water, which at once defines it to be the hill stream; but this is unfortunately by no means a description of the brook. It rises a little above Slwch from some boggy wet lands at the foot of a hill, it must therefore be sought for in *Braon*, *Brion* (Irish) plur. *Braoin* and *Braonydd*, a dropping, oozing water, which characterises its origin as well as its course. The canal from Brecknock now intercepts its fall into the Usk, arrests its current, and commands its assistance in conveying our coals to the market at Brecon, with which article we are at present daily and plentifully supplied.

The usual and general market for provisions and other articles in this town is on Saturday, another smaller on Wednesday, and for cattle on Friday, in every week. There are here five fairs in the year,<sup>1</sup> principally for cattle and some horses are sold, but of them the less said the better, for the breed of the country generally produced at these marts, have very little resemblance to the war horse described in Scripture.

<sup>1</sup> First Wednesday in March, May 4, July 5, Sept. 9, and Nov. 17.



## VISCOUNT TREDEGAR.

The "Mansion House" at Brecon, the Breconshire residence of the Tredegar family, is situated between the St. Mary's Church and Glamorgan Street. It is a commodious dwelling, and is faced by a garden walled in from the Glamorgan Street side. The house is used as the occasional residence of members of the Tredegar family, and is always kept in readiness for their use. The earlier particulars of this ancient family are stated by Mr. Theophilus Jones, and it will only be necessary here to give a continuation of the pedigree from that period when William Morgan, eldest son of Thomas Morgan, of Machan and Tredegar, married 1st Blanche the daughter of William Morgan, of Therrow, Brecon, which lady died in 1673, and 2nd Elizabeth daughter and co-heir of Edward Lewis of Van Park, co. Glamorgan, and relict of Sir Francis Darell, of Bucks, Knt. William Morgan died in 1680, leaving by his first wife a son and successor,

JOHN MORGAN of Tredegar and Ruperra, lord lieut. of cos. Brecon and Monmouth, born 1670, who *m.* Martha dau. of Gwynn Vaughan of Trebarried, Brecon, and had with other issue,

1. WILLIAM his heir.
2. THOMAS heir to his nephew.

John Morgan was a great supporter of the Whig interest, and, dying 1719, was succeeded by his eldest son,

SIR WILLIAM MORGAN, of Tredegar, K.B., born 1700, who married Rachel eldest dau. of William 2nd Duke of Devonshire, K.G. (by his wife Rachel, eldest dau. of the celebrated William, Lord Russell) and by her (who died 1780) had issue,

1. WILLIAM his heir.
2. Edward, died 7 Feb. 1743, *æt.* 16, *s.p.*
1. Rachel, died unmarried 11 March, 1738.
2. Elizabeth, born 29 March, 1729, *m.* 1767 William Jones of Clytha House, co. Monmouth, 4th son of

John Jones, of Llanarth Court, she died without issue 14 Jan. 1787; he died 1805.

Sir William died 1731 aged 30, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir,

WILLIAM MORGAN, of Tredegar, *b.* 28 March, 1725; who *d.* 16 July, 1763, *unm.*, when his sister Elizabeth, wife of William Jones, of Clytha, became sole remaining child and heiress of Sir William Morgan, K.B.; and he was *s.* in the Tredegar estate by his uncle,

THOMAS MORGAN, of Ruperra, and of Tredegar, at the death of his nephew William; *b.* 1702; who *m.* Jane, 2nd dau. and co-heir of Maynard Colchester, of Westbury-on-Severn, by whom he had,

1. THOMAS, his heir.
2. CHARLES, heir to his brother.
3. JOHN, heir to his brother Charles.

1. JANE, *m.* DR. CHARLES GOULD, who, upon his wife becoming possessed of the Tredegar estate, took to name of MORGAN.

2. Katherine, *b.* 1735; *m.* August, 1754, Charles Van, of Llanwern, co. Monmouth; *d.* 1784, having had issue one son and three daus., viz.,

1. Thomas Van, *d.* 1794, leaving a son, Charles John, who *d.* 1798.

1. Katherine Van, *m.* May, 1780, Sir Robert Salusbury, Bart. (who became of Llanwern in right of his wife); she *d.* 21 July, 1836, leaving issue.

2. Jane, *m.* Rev. Edward Cage.

3. Charlotte, *m.* 1st. Major John Sayer; 2ndly, John Watchurst.

Thomas Morgan *d.* 12 April, 1769, and was *s.* by his eldest son,

THOMAS MORGAN, of Tredegar; *b.* 1727; M.P. for the co. of Monmouth, *d.* *unm.* 15 May, 1771; and was *s.* by his brother,

CHARLES MORGAN, of Tredegar; *b.* 1736; *m.* Mary, dau. and heir of Thomas Parry; and *d.* 1787, *s.p.*, and was *s.* by his brother,

JOHN MORGAN, of Tredegar, M.P. for the co. of Monmouth, who *m.* Louisa, dau. of Charles Pym Burt, but *d.s.p.* 1792, when the Tredegar estate went to his eldest sister,

JANE MORGAN, who *m.* Feb. 1758, SIR CHARLES GOULD, 1st Bart., who was son of King Gould, deputy-judge-advocate, by Elizabeth his wife, dau. of Charles Shaw, of Besthorpe, in Norfolk. Dr. Gould was an eminent civilian, having been appointed judge-advocate, and judge-marshal of the forces, and sworn of the privy council; he received, in 1779, the honour of knighthood, and was created a baronet 15 Nov. 1792. By her (who *d.* 14 Feb. 1797) Sir Charles had issue,

1. CHARLES, 2nd bart.

2. John, a midshipman, killed in the memorable engagement of Lord Rodney.

1. Jane, *m.* 1st, Capt. Ball, R.N.; and 2ndly, Samuel Homfray, of Penyardren, co. Glamorgan. She *d.* 22 Dec. 1846.

2. Elizabeth, *m.* Rowley Lascelles, and had issue.

3. Fanny, *m.* her cousin, the Rev. Augustus Morgan.

Sir Charles assumed, in conformity with the testamentary injunction of his brother-in-law, John Morgan, and by royal permission, the surname and armorial bearings of the family of MORGAN of Tredegar. He represented, in three parliaments, the co. of Brecon; *d.* 6 Dec. 1806, and was *s.* by his eldest son,

SIR CHARLES MORGAN, 2nd Bart., lieut.-col. in the army, capt. Coldstream Guards, M.P. for Brecon, 1787 to 1796, and for co. Monmouth, 1796 to 1831; he was *b.* 4 Feb. 1760; *m.* Mary Margaret, only child of George Stonoy, capt. R.N., and by her (who *d.* 24 March, 1808) had issue,

1. CHARLES MORGAN ROBINSON, 1st Lord TREDEGAR.

2. George Gould, M.P. for Brecon, *b.* 12 July, 1794; *m.* 7 July, 1824, Eliza, dau. of the Rev. William Beville; and *d.* 25 Aug. 1845, having by her (who *m.* 2ndly, Capt. Claridge, and *d.* 1845) had issue,

1. Eliza Angelina, *m.* 11 Dec. 1856, Major-Gen. Sir G. H. S. Willis, G.C.B. She *d.* 1867. He *m.* 2ndly, 8 Aug. 1874, Ada Mary, eldest dau. of Sir John Nield, 1st Bart., and *d.* 29 Nov. 1900, leaving issue.

2. Georgina Frances, *d.* in 1847.

3. Selina Rose Catherine, *m.* 10 April, 1850, the Rev. W. N. Tilson Marsh, M.A., of Stretham Manor, Cambridgeshire, who *d.* 1881.

3. Charles Augustus Samuel (Rev.), chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral, rector of Machen, in Monmouthshire, and chaplain in ordinary to the Queen, *b.* 2 Sept. 1800; *m.* 20 April, 1837, Frances, dau. of Rowley Lascelles, and *d.* 5 Sept. 1875. She *d.* 16 Feb. 1867.

4. Charles Octavius Swinnerton, F.R.S., M.A., M.P. for Monmouthshire, 1841 to 1874, D.L. co. Monmouth, *b.* 15 Sept. 1803, *d.* *unm.* 5 Aug. 1888.

(See next page.)



(Continued from previous page.)

1. Maria Margarotta, *m.* 8 March, 1817, Lieut.-Gen. Francis Miles Milman, son of Sir Francis Milman, 1st Bart., and *d.* 15 May, 1875. He *d.* 9 Dec. 1856.
2. Charlotte Georgiana, *m.* 27 Feb. 1819, George, 3rd Lord Rodney, who *d.* 21 June, 1842; she *d.* 19 Feb. 1878.
3. Angelina Maria Cecilia, *m.* 12 April, 1825, Sir Hugh Owen, Bart., and *d.* 4 Sept. 1844.
4. Selina Anne, *d.* an infant.

Sir Charles *d.* 5 Dec. 1846, and was *s.* by his eldest son,

SIR CHARLES MORGAN ROBINSON, 1st BARON TREDEGAR, *b.* 10 April, 1792, M.P. for Brecon, who was raised to the peerage as BARON TREDEGAR, 16 April, 1859. He *m.* 6 Oct. 1827, Rosamund, only dau. of General Godfrey Basil Mundy, and by her (who *d.* 3 Jan. 1883) had,

1. Charles Rodney, *b.* 2 Dec. 1828, was in the Coldstream Guards, M.P. for Brecon; *d. unm.* 14 Jan. 1854.
2. GODFREY CHARLES, present peer.
3. FREDERIC COURTENAY, of Ruperra Castle, Newport, D.L., M.P. for co. Monmouth, 1874-85, and for south division since latter year, hon. col. 2nd vol. batt. S.W. Borderers (V.D.), late capt. rifle brigade, served through Crimean war (medal with five clasps, Turkish medal and Medjidie), *b.* 24 May, 1834; *m.* 3 May, 1858, Charlotte Ann, dau. of Charles Alexander Williamson of Balgray, Dumfriesshire, and by her (who *d.* 30 March, 1891) left issue,
  1. Courtenay Charles Evan, of Ashford Court, Ludlow, Shropshire, J.P. and D.L. co. Monmouth, major and hon. lieut.-col. Royal Monmouth Engineers, hon. maj. in the army, served in the S. African war 1900-1, *b.* 10 April, 1867; *m.* 5 Aug. 1890, Lady Katharine Carnegie, dau. of James, 9th Earl of Southesk, K.T., and has issue,
 

Evan Frederic, *b.* 13 July, 1893.  
Gwyneth Ericka, *b.* 5 Jan. 1895.
  2. Frederic George, *b.* 23 Nov. 1873; *m.* 14 April, 1898, Dorothy Sysyllt, dau. of R. T. Bassett, of Bonvilston, Glamorgan, and has issue,
 

Sysyllt Avis, *b.* 24 Feb. 1903.
  1. Blanche Frances, *b.* 3 Feb. 1859; *m.* 18 Sept. 1883, Charles Twysden Hoare, of Stratton, co. Gloucester.
  2. Violet Wilhelmina, *b.* 23 Sept. 1860, *m.* 28 Aug. 1894, Major Basil St. John Mundy, late 15th Hussars.
4. Arthur John, J.P. and D.L. for Monmouth, J.P. co. Brecon, *b.* 27 Aug. 1840, *d. unm.* 9 Nov. 1900.
5. George Gould, *b.* 15 Sept. 1845.
1. Rosamond Marian, *m.* 18 Dec. 1848, Sir William Henry Marsham Style, 9th Bart. She *d.* 15 Jan. 1883. He *d.* 31 Jan. 1904, leaving issue.
2. Selina Maria, *m.* 5 Jan. 1853, David Robertson Williamson, of Lawers, co. Perth, and has issue.
3. Fanny Henrietta, *m.* 9 Oct. 1854, Sir G. F. R. Walker, Bart., and *d.* 2 Sept. 1887. He *d.* 1 Aug. 1896, leaving issue.
4. Ellen Sarah, *m.* 14 May, 1856, Lieut.-Col. Henry Gore Lindsay, and has issue.
5. Georgiana Charlotte, *m.* 1st, 28 Sept. 1857, Lord Francis Conyngham, who *d.* 14 Sept. 1880; 2ndly, 27 April, 1882, Lieut.-Col. Alan Chichester, 18th Royal Irish Regt., and *d.s.p.* 22 April, 1886.
6. Mary Anne, *m.* 16 July, 1863, Robert, 16th Viscount Hereford, and has issue.

The first Baron Tredegar, who was lord lieutenant for co. Brecon, *d.* 16 April, 1875.

The present peer (the second baron, and a baronet) was born 28 April, 1831; he was educated at Eton; late captain in the 17th Lancers, and served in the Crimean War (medal and four clasps), where he rode in the charge made by the Noble Six Hundred; was M.P. for county Brecon from 1858 to 1875; is hon. col. Royal Monmouthshire R.E., and late major Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeo. Cav.; has the Order of the Medjidie 5th class; lord lieutenant for Monmouthshire, and vice-chairman and alderman of that County Council; J.P. and D.L. for co. Brecon and elsewhere; and known throughout the country as one of the most generous benefactors of his generation to public institutions and private charities. His lordship was created a Viscount by King Edward the Seventh in 1906.

## THE MARQUESS OF CAMDEN.

(See *Jeffreys pedigrees.*)

The Priory House is the property of the Camden family, who have not occupied the mansion for many years past, the place being rented to tenants; the present occupier is Mrs. H. O. Aveline Maybery. As noted in the Jeffreys pedigrees, this and other Breconshire property came to the Camden family by marriages between the Pratts and the Jeffreyses. John Pratt, of The Wilderness, Kent, M.P., married as his first wife, Elizabeth daughter of Sir Geoffrey Jeffreys of The Priory, Brecon, and had by her a son John of Bayham Abbey, Sussex, who *d.s.p.* in 1797, bequeathing his estates to the Marquis Camden. The Right Hon. Sir Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden, was a great lawyer and statesman (born 1713) and became Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain. He married 4th Oct. 1749, Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Nicholas Jeffreys, of the Priory, co. Brecon; the Earl died in 1794, and was succeeded by his son, John Jeffreys, 2nd Earl and 1st Marquis Camden; he was created Earl of the County of Brecknock and Marquess Camden 7th Sept., 1812. He was lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1798, and died 1840, being succeeded by his son George Charles, second Marquess, who was installed K.G.; he died August 6, 1866, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John Charles, third Marquess, born 1840, who was M.P. for co. Brecknock, and materially contributed to the restoration of the Priory Church at Brecon. The third Marquess married 12 July, 1866, Clementina Augusta, younger daughter of George, 6th Duke of Marlborough; he died May 4,



1872, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, then a minor, John Charles, the present and 4th Marquis (born 9 Feb., 1872), who married 2nd June, 1898, Joan Marion, daughter of Lord Henry Nevill, second son of the Marquess of Abergavenny. The heir to the Marquess Camden is John Charles Henry, Earl of Brecknock, born 12th April, 1899. The only sister of the Marquess married 1890 the Hon. Arthur Henry John Walsh, late M.P. for Radnorshire, and a son of Lord Ormathwaite. The widow of the 3rd Marquess married 2ndly Captain Philip Green, by whom she had a daughter, Evelyn Frances Henrietta Green.

### THE MAYBERYS OF BRECON.

(See *Wilkins of Brecknock, etc.*, page 155.)

This family was actively identified with the public life of Breconshire for a considerable period, and principally resided at Brecon, having also that property known as Penlan, St. John's, in which extensive park one of them made the fish ponds there. This property descended to a daughter of Walter Maybery, Esq. The office of Prothonotary of the old Brecon Circuit was in the family, and it was last held by one of them. The last male member of the Mayberys to reside in Brecon was Major Aveline Maybery, who married Miss Cobb, of Nythfa, and by whom he left a young son and a daughter, who reside at the Priory House, Brecon. Mr. H. H. Maybery, a brother, resides in Monmouthshire, and inherited an estate from his friend the late Major Bargrave Watkins, of the Watkins of Lloegr family. The Mayberys married into the Wilkins family, and for the purpose of this work, we have commenced their pedigree as follows:—

THOMAS WILKINS, Prothonotary of the Brecon Circuit was son of Rev. Thomas Wilkins, LL.B., rector, who died in 1698. The Prothonotary married as his first wife Anne daughter of Richard Carne, Esq., and had a son, Carne Wilkins, born 31st October, 1702, who married Mary daughter of Anne Morgan, widow of Thomas Morgan, Esq., of St. George's, Somerset. They had issue three sons, (1) Thomas Wilkins, high sheriff of Somersetshire 1787, died without male issue; (2) Richard, d.s.p.; (3) the Rev. George Wilkins, rector of St. Michael's, Bristol, born 1743. He married Anne daughter of John Thompson, Esq. (his third wife), and had issue by her,

1. Cann de Winton, Esq., of Clifton, co. Gloucester, J.P. and D.L. for Glam. and Som.. 17th in a direct line from King Edward I.; he married Mary a daughter of Thomas Evans. Esq.
2. George de Winton, Esq., late Captain 39th Regt., *m.* and had issue.
3. Thomas, lieut. R.N., dec., leaving one daughter.
4. William de Winton, Esq., late Major in the Light Cavalry, Bombay.

Thomas Wilkins the Prothonotary married for his second wife Anne, daughter of Meredith Bowen, Esq., and had John Wilkins, Esq., born 15th Nov., 1713, who married Sybil, daughter of Walter Jeffreys, Esq., and had issue,

1. Walter Wilkins, Esq., M.P. for Radnorshire, married 1777 Catherine daughter of Samuel Hayward, Esq., and had issue.
  1. Walter de Winton of Maesllwch Castle, M.P. for Radnorshire (died 1840), married Julia Cecilia, dau. of the Rev. R. J. Collinson, rector of Gateshead, and had issue,
    1. Walter de Winton (now of Maesllwch).
    2. Francis Walter de Winton.
    3. Emily Gwenllian.
2. ANNIE WILKINS, who married JOHN MAYBERY, Esq.,<sup>1</sup> and from whom  
THOMAS MAYBERY, prothonotary of the Brecon Circuit, who married ELIZABETH DAVIES, dau. of the Rev. Richard Davies, vicar of Brecon.
3. Frances Wilkins, died unmarried.
4. Jeffreys of the Priory, married Catherine dau. of the Rev. Gregory Parry, from whom, John Parry de Winton, Esq., of Maesderwen, co. Brecon (*See the Maesderwen pedigree*); Jeffreys de Winton, Esq., of the Isle of Wight, married and had issue; the Rev. Walter de Winton of Hay Castle, Breconshire, married and had issue.

By the marriage of THOMAS MAYBERY and ELIZABETH DAVIES, there was the following issue,

1. Elizabeth, the eldest of 18 children.
2. Frances, *m.* John Lloyd of Dinas, Esq., died without issue.
3. Anne, *m.* Edward Jones of Velindre, Carm., and died leaving three sons, Edward, David and Thomas.
4. Walter, last Prothonotary of Brecon Circuit, married D. M. Phillips, from whom Julia Martha Diana, (who inherited the Penlan estate in St. John's, and who married C. W. Best, Esq., by whom she has several sons and two daughters).
5. HENRY, who married for his 1st wife Eliza Marian Aveline, dau. of Capt. Aveline, and had issue,
  1. Annie, twice married, and had issue.
  2. HENRY OXENFORD AVELINE, major in Breconshire Volunteers, who married Lucy Powys Cobb, dau. of Joseph Richard Cobb, Esq., of Nythfa, Brecon, and of Emily Powys his wife, dau. of John Parry de Winton, Esq., and by which marriage he left issue,
    1. Muriel Powys Aveline.
    2. Richard Aveline.
  3. Christina, married General Bengough, C.B., and had issue.
  4. Herbert Hartland, married Katharine Dorothy Osborn, a dau. of the late Sir Melmoth Osborn, K.C.M.G., formerly Chief Commissioner for Zululand. This son inherited the estates of his friend Major Bargrave Watkins, J.P., who made a will in his favour. He has issue one son, Thomas Bargrave Aveline.
  5. Elinora, died in infancy.
  6. Henry Marian.

By a second marriage with Mary Wetenhall, Mr. Henry Maybery had Caroline Frances, and Charles Wetenhall.

<sup>1</sup> The first Maybery to settle in Breconshire was John Maybery, a pioneer ironmaster of South Wales, who was the son of John Maybery and Mary his wife; the former was an ironmaster in Worcestershire and lived at Powick Court in that County, the latter (Mary Maybery) in her will, which was in the possession of the late Aveline Maybery, Esq., left a sum of money to the poor of Powick.



In a work published by Mr. Boyne, F.S.A. in 1858, there is some account of money tokens issued in Breconshire. There is a Brecknock farthing, with "B.B. 1670" in the centre of one side, and on the reverse the arms of Brecon. Another has "THOMAS IVXSON, GLOVER" with a drawing of glove and shears in the centre, and on the other side "IN BRECKNOCK 1669," and "HIS HALF-PENNY" in centre. In the town of Hay, there is a still earlier one, viz., "MATTHEW PARRY 1663," and "O.B." in centre on one side, and "MERCER IN THE HAY," with "M.P." in the centre, on the reverse.

The parochial register of Saint John's, commences in 1709, Saint Mary's in 1685. Saint John's is a vicarage discharged; Saint Mary's is not in charge.

	£	s.	d.	Tenths. £ s. d.
Value of the living, in Pope Nicholas's } taxation, in 1288 - - - - }	20	0	0	2 0 0
Temporals of the prior of Brocon - -	25	19	4	2 11 11½
Value in the Liber Regis - - - -	31	6	0	0 13 4
Saint Mary's, certified value - - -	4	6	2	
Archdeacon's procurations from the } roctory of Saint John's - - - }	-	-	-	0 6 8
Ditto, from the vicar - - - - -	-	-	-	0 2 6

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1403.—The Prior and Convent of Brecon		David ap Thomas, alias Owen-teine.	1685.—		Thomas Sandys.
1406.—The same.		Morgan ap Rhys. <sup>1</sup>	1694.—		Charles Pryce. <sup>9</sup>
1408.—The same.		Roger Bampton.	1695.—		Edward Gwyn. <sup>10</sup>
1408.—The same		Griffith Schepperd. <sup>2</sup>	1718.—Sir Edw. Williams, Baronet.		Thomas Stockdale.
Ditto.—Ditto.		Walter Wodewey.	1720.—John Williams, Penkelley, Herefordshire, and Wm. Phillips, Brecon.		Richard Davies.
Ditto.		Philip David. <sup>3</sup>	1748.—Edw. Williams and Joanna Davies		Thomas Williams.
1486.—Ditto.		Jeffrey Thomas.	1787.—Richard Davies, clerk, A.M.		Himself, <i>obit</i> 1804.
1505.—Ditto.		Thomas ap Jeuan.	1804.—Richard Davies, clerk, A.M.		Himself.
		Thomas ap Hoel.	1859.—Dean Williams of Llandaff and Mrs. Williams.		Garnons Williams, afterwards Vicar of Bettws-Penpont, and prebendary of St. David's.
		Sir Morgan ap David. <sup>4</sup>	1864.—The same.		Herbert Williams, a prebendary of St. David's, and brother to his predecessor.
		Thomas Griffiths in 1559. <sup>5</sup>	1897.—Rev. Thomas Williams, vicar of Llowes, a brother to the two previous vicars of Brecon.		Edward Latham Bevan, son of Archdeacon William Latham Bevan, whom he succeeded in the archdeaconry in 1907.
1572.—		William Hyde			
1575.—Tho Crown.		Thomas Wightman.			
1576.—Ditto.		Walter David.			
1621.—Sir Henry Williams, knight.		Lewis Morgan. <sup>6</sup>			
1633.—Sir Henry Williams, knight.		Meredith Lewis. <sup>7</sup>			
1661.—Sir Henry Williams, baronet.		Owen Griffiths, curate of Brecon, 1583.			
1662.—Ditto.		Meredith Ponry.			
1677.—Thos. Lane and Abigail his wife.		John Hergest. <sup>8</sup>			

<sup>1</sup> In 1405 he was appointed receiver general to the bishop of St. David's; in 1410 he was nominated by John, prior of Brecon, and the convent there, to be chaplain or perpetual curate of the free chapel of St. Nicholas, within the walls of the castle of Brecon, to which he was inducted by Matthew hir, his proxy.

<sup>2</sup> It is not certain when he was presented, but it appears that he resigned.

<sup>3</sup> Uncertain when presented.

<sup>4</sup> On the resignation of Jeffrey Thomas this living is here called, in the bishop's register, *Ecclesia Sanctæ Crucis de Brechon*. Sir Morgan ap David was great grandson to Sir David Gam.

<sup>5</sup> He died in 1572; by his will he desires to be buried in the *vicar's chapel*; he gives to his maid servant a flock bod with a *bolster of leather*, and the remainder of his effects to John Bettfylde, after payment of his debts and funeralls at his buriall, daic months mynd and twelve months mynde. Attested by Hugh Havard, N.P. &c.

<sup>6</sup> He was a commissary, or as we now call him, a surrogate for proving wills, &c. In the inventory of his apparel are six pair of *hand cuffs*—these were linen sleeves and wristbands worn with flannel shirts.

<sup>7</sup> He died in 1646, the living was therefore probably vacant for some time, and until the restoration: he seems to have been of Maesmynis, as he describes his brother, Thomas Lewis to be of that parish, and gives him an estate there. In this inventory are two great *blaidd* staffs (*blaidd* is a wolf), a pitchfork, a bond from Thomas Prees, clerk, in the hands of Wynter Jones, put in suyte in the Councill of the Marches, a silver beer bowl and the portrayture of the twelve sybils; he left only two daughters, Anno and Sarah. (a).

<sup>8</sup> He was master of the free grammar school at the college, and held Llanhamlach with Brecon under a dispensation.

<sup>9</sup> This is the *Præcentor vere Davidicus* described in his monument in the college church.

<sup>10</sup> This living was vacant some time after the death of Mr. Gwyn.

(a) In an inventory in 1631, of a testator of Brecon, are one glaif staff, one bastard bill, one pattle staff, and three stockards most of the tradesmen of this town about the same period were also possessed of a harp.



## LLANDDEW.

THE parish church and village of Llanddew is two miles north-east of Brecknock, and is situated, according to Adams in his *Index Villaris*, in 52 3 north latitude, and in longitude 3 21, which is in precisely the same degree as Brecknock, but we rather think it should be placed at 3 20 west. It is sometimes spelt, in the English manner, Llanthew, sometimes erroneously, as in Adams, Llandew and Llandduw, and in the memorial papers and Pope Nicholas's taxation, Llandon. Many persons think it ought to be written Llandduw, which (say they) is the church of the Holy Trinity; in confirmation of their opinion they quote Ecton, who states it to be dedicated to the Trinity, and, it is added, the wake or feast is held upon Trinity Sunday, but there are some very powerful objections to this derivation, even if there were no evidence in favour of our mode of spelling and defining it. Duw, in Welsh, always means (as God does in English) the first person in the Trinity, and there is no instance in this kingdom of a church thus dedicated; if it had been Trinity Church, it would like that in Radnorshire, have been called Llandrindod, and as to the time of holding the feast, it deserves no attention; fifty instances may be cited, where the feast is not held on the patron Saint's day. Llanddew then is, according to our comprehension, an abbreviation of Llanddewi or Saint David's, the saint to whom it is dedicated, and not as Ecton states, to the Holy Trinity. From early ages it was the seat and house of the bishop of Saint David's, where the archdeacon and dean of Brecon had habitations, and where the prelate, with his other dignitaries and ecclesiastical officers, resided occasionally on his visits to the diocese. On one of these occasions, Guy de Mona, as appears by his register at Abergwili, then being at his castle here, resigned a living, and is described as "the lord bishop of Llanddew, otherwise Llanddewi." Of this parish, we must hazard a conjecture; though we will not assert it as an historical fact, that the present parish anciently formed part of Saint David's, or Plwyf Dewi, in Breconshire, that there was a chapel of ease within the latter, in which the archdeacon of Brecon officiated, for which he had the tythes, and is ever since the patron of the living, and there was a prevailing opinion, among many of the common people, that the college, being within the circuit of the parish of Saint David's, though certainly extra parochial, constituted a parcel of the parish of Llanddew, that the poor who gained a settlement within the precincts of the college, were parishioners of Llanddew, and that the poor who died in the former place should be buried in the cemetery of the mother church.

## THE CHURCH OF 1800.

This fabric is cruciform, and as before observed, is one of the earliest in the county, and perhaps may claim a seniority over the parish church of Saint John's at Brecon, though both no doubt have so frequently undergone repairs and alterations that it would be difficult to point out the parts of the original building now remaining: it consists at present (1800) of a nave only, intersected by two chapels, one of them, like that in the priory, being called Cappel y cochiaid, forming a cross aisle. Both of them, as well as the church, are dark and dirty, the floor of earth, and uneven, in consequence of the vile and pernicious habit of burying within the walls; the pews are irregular, many of them decayed, and the windows are of the lancet form but not pointed at the top. The steeple, placed over the intersection of the nave by the cross aisle, is extremely clumsy and heavy, and has four bells within it. It was built, as appears by a stone in the wall in the church, in 1623; William Havard and William Griffiths then being wardens; near it are the arms of Havard and a lion rampant, perhaps intended for the arms of Griffith. There are no monuments, and very few gravestones, in this church; under the steeple is an inscription to the memory of Gwenllian, the wife of Thomas Games of this parish, gent., who died in 1729, aged eighty. Near the chancel, and partly concealed by the pews, belonging to two tenements in this parish, called Wern and Ty issaf, a stone commemorates the departure of Thomas Games of this parish, who married Gwenllian, the daughter of Richard Williams of Llywel, gent., the time of his death cannot be ascertained without removing the seats. (Arms, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Rhys Goch, 3 Gwys, 4 Brychan, 5 as 1, 6 Einon Sais, 7 Gwarin ddu or Progers, 8 as 4, 9 Elystan Glodrydd, 10 Hughes, 11 Cradoc ap Gwilym, 12 as 2, 13 as 3.) This Richard Williams, who was an attorney in considerable practice, was also the genealogist, described by Hugh Thomas, as "*a subtle lawyer and adulterer.*" John Games and Richard Games, the above named sons of Thomas Games, both died without issue, the former in 1709, having spent the whole of the property left him by his father, which was very considerable, and his sisters married two tradesmen in Brecon, as will be seen in the pedigree of the family in the next parish.

Near the communion table, though partly concealed by a seat, "Here lyeth the body of James Powel of Troed yr harn, son to Thomas Powel, by Catherine his wife, one of the daughters of Aurelius



Williams of Llanffwyst, in the county of Monmouth, doctor of physic, who died the 17th day of March, 1698." (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch, crest on a helmet of an esquire, the coat of Rhys Goch.) Under the communion table, Howel ap Jeuan of Troed yr harn; the remainder of the letters are defaced. Near the north wall, under the Penywaun seats, 'Here lyeth the body of William Bevan of Alexanderstone, who married Elizabeth, daughter of ———, they had issue Thomas William and Anne, he died ——— 1630.' William Bevan was (we believe) the William Evan mentioned in page 10 of the pedigree of Brychan, in the appendix, whose first cousin, Lleici, married Gabriel Powel of Alexanderstone, though the herald seems to have known nothing of his children; he was registrar of the diocese of Saint David's, and succeeded Alban Stepney, ancestor of Sir John Stepney, Baronet, the first who held that office, and who came into Wales in 1558, and settled at Prendergrast in Pembrokeshire, but whose family since, in consequence of intermarriages with Vaughan of Llanelly and Lloyds of Dan yr allt, removed into Carmarthenshire.

Another stone, near that of William Bevan, has the arms of Havard, impaling Watkins of Llangorse or Vaughan of Tyle glas; the inscription is not legible, though of later date than the former. It probably covers the remains of Thomas Havard, who married a grand-daughter of David Gunter, by a daughter and heiress of Thomas Philip Vaughan of Tyle glas, which entitled his descendants to quarter the arms of the last mentioned family.

In the church yard there are no tombs, grave-stones, or inscriptions worthy of notice; there is no table of benefactions hung up or painted within the church, nor can we find that any such have been bequeathed for the support of the poor of this parish, except the sum of three pounds, given by Edward William David John of Llanddew, by his will, proved in 1621, to be delivered to the overseers of the poor there, from time to time, for ever, the interest, or six shillings, *being the rent thereof*, to be by them distributed at Christmas yearly, to the poor and needy impotent men and women of this parish.

#### THE BISHOP'S PALACE, AND MANORS.

The road leading from Bronllys by Talachddu through this village to Tair derwen and then to Aberyscir divides the church and churchyard from the ruins of the castle, though perhaps anciently the former were included. Within the area is an arched well of most excellent water, which was evidently intended to supply a court on each side of the present wall. The site of what now appears to have been the castle contains about an acre of ground, and is of an oblong square or parallelogram; on the north side, the wall, of what was clearly the chapel, still remains, in which are three gothic windows, the pine ends also are in part standing and have one window of the same form in each; it is seventeen yards and a half by nine, but the foundation only of the south wall appears. There are no remains of the houses of the archdeacon or other dignitaries of the church now to be seen.

That this was the mansion and occasional residence of the bishops of the see, from a very early period, is certain; that it was nearly coeval with the bishopric is not improbable, but there are no documents to enable us to form an opinion as to the time of its erection. The remains of the chapel, and the wall adjoining the road, appear from the formation of the windows in the former and the masonry and structure of the latter, to be of the early Norman architecture, but from its having been in the possession of the church, we are not to expect the occurrence of events within the historian's department; accordingly, it seems, amidst the din of war and the horrors of civil commotions, to have escaped the rage of all parties, until the Puritans in the time of Cromwell, more ferocious and eager for plunder than the uncivilised savages of antiquity, laid violent hands upon it, and in 1658 sold it, together with the manor, to David Morgan of Bovingdon, in the county of Hertford, esq., for £546 7s. 1d.: it was however restored to the bishopric soon after the return of Charles the Second to the throne, and it has continued to pass with the see ever since. The Bishop, by his steward, held a court leet here once a year, and formerly also a court baron, which has long been discontinued. The whole amount of the chief rents was extremely trifling, and the manor a "thing of shreds and patches," consisting of parcels of five parishes, lying in different parts of the county: this may, perhaps, be accounted for when the mode by which the church acquired its property is considered. Other manorial and feudal rights were the fruits of conquest or matrimonial connections, after long possession resulting from the law of inheritance, or in consequence of purchases. In all these cases the possessor endeavoured to make his domains compact, and to enclose them within a circle as far as it was in his power; but the wealth of the church arose sometimes from the benefactions of the pious, and more frequently as atonements for guilt: probably, therefore, the freehold of these detached parcels was originally given by persons residing in the different parishes in which they were situate, to the bishops of the see, but not being cultivated, and of very little value in early days, they were granted



to those who undertook to improve and make them productive at small rents,<sup>1</sup> which in process of time were erroneously considered as chief rents, a payment which owes its origin to causes very different from these reservations to ecclesiastical dignitaries, though attended with all the peculiarities accompanying commutations for military services, such as heriots, alienations, fines, comortha, &c.

Adjoining the manor is another lordship, belonging to Sir Charles Morgan of Tredegar, called Alexanderstone and Mara mota, comprehending parcels of this and two or three other parishes, if indeed they be two distinct lordships, for they have always gone together. We leave these names whole and untouched, as we received the same, to future historians and etymologists, first premising that neither document nor tradition has preserved the memory of an Alexander the Great "the pig, the magnanimous," or the little, as the owner or occupier of this precinct, or the mansion of the same name; and though Mara be one name for Llangorse Lake, we have never heard or read of its removal to or from any part of this manor.<sup>2</sup>

#### ANCIENT MANSIONS.

The first mention we find of this tenement of Alexanderstone<sup>3</sup> is that it was possessed during the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth by Mr. Registrar Bevan, after which it became the property of Mr. Gabriel Powel, one of the Powels of Cantreff, who married Mr. Bevan's first cousin, Lleici William; he was in the law, and acted as deputy registrar for the archdeaconry of Brecon for several years, but it should seem that he had only a life interest in this estate, for it is afterwards found in the possession of the descendants of the above William Bevan, the registrar, two of whom sold it to Mr. William Jeffreys, of Brecon, after whose death it was purchased by Walter Wilkins, of Maeslough, esq., M.P. for the county of Radnor.

Nearly adjoining this farmhouse is another called Troed yr harn, but correctly Tref Trahaern, it having been parcel of the possessions and one of the mansions of Trahaern fychan, lord of Llangorse, who was inhumanly murdered by William de Breos, as related in the first volume; it continued in his family until some time in the latter end of the seventeenth century, when it was purchased by one of the Gwyns of Pant y corred; and subsequently possessed by John Llewelyn of Penlle'r gaer, esq., an ancestor of Sir John T. D. Llewelyn, Bart. Griffith William, who describes himself of Trewern or Wern, though his grandfather was also of Troed yr harn, died in 1683, and is buried at Glazbury; by his will he devised a tenement called Cwm coed y clas, in Glazbury, to his grandchild, Henry Williams, son of John Williams of Scynlas, who likewise inherited this estate of Wern, and from him it descended to the late Rev. John Williams, vicar of Glazbury, whose widow devised it to Miss Hughes, the proprietor in 1800.

These are the only mansions in this parish which can boast of anything like antiquity, and these soon will perhaps not be thought deserving of notice; but before quitting this part of the subject we must hazard a conjecture upon the name of another farm. Upon a high ridge, in this parish, at a short distance from the present turnpike road, is a house which in some old wills is called Stanbey, Stanby, and now Standell, a corruption of some English word, probably of Standard, from its having been the spot where the standard of Henry the Seventh was placed, when part of his troops, under the conduct of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, marched through this country, in their route from Milford Haven to join their leader at Shrewsbury.

#### JONES' DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH.

The soil of the greater part of this parish differs considerably from that of Brecon on the banks of the Usk; it is more argillaceous, and consequently boggy, it is three parts out of four arable, but there are also a great number of acres in common, which of course are uncultivated, though capable of producing good crops of corn, if enclosed and manured. On the south of a common called Waun y Geifyr is seen the lime stone, which was frequently burnt here in 1800; it consisted out of one hundred parts of the following proportion of ingredients:—

Carbonate of lime	..	..	..	..	96	6
Water	..	..	..	..	0	3
Residuum, consisting of argill, sillex, a portion of oxyde of iron and a trace of sulphurous acid					2	9
					100	0

It is remarkable that within this small precinct could be seen, in Theo. Jones's time, specimens of the best and the worst husbandry in the county of Brecon. On the right side of the road from

<sup>1</sup> There were no copyholds within the manor.

<sup>2</sup> Notwithstanding the resolution we had formed when we wrote the above, an habitual propensity to nibble at old words, and an accidental conversation, *in very bad company*, suggested that though the lake may not be in the manor of Mara *Mota*, the lord of Mara may usually have held his mote court here, from whence it may have taken its name.

<sup>3</sup> Fortasse Alud sive Alynedstone, the chappel of Saint Elyned being near it.



Brecon to Hay, at the distance of about two miles and a half, were lands overrun with bushes and brambles, and so full of bogs that a heavy beast could hardly stand in them in the winter time, though there was a sufficient fall for draining them, and though with this labour and at an expense comparatively trifling, when the profit of the improvement was considered, they would produce from two to three pounds an acre; while on the other hand, adjoining the village of Llanddew, was a farm, which within a few years, though little better than a wilderness, was converted into a garden, repaying the cultivator in rational pleasure, and returning his expenditure with an annually increasing interest. Upon a common within this parish, some years back, was dug up what appeared to be a valuable species of marl, which mixed with lime would be an useful addition to the manures here laid on, but it seems that it was either destitute of a sufficient quantity of saponaceous matter, or the discovery was not followed up by perseverance and experiments, for it was hardly ever tried, nor did the labour or ingenuity of man find any other of the subterranean treasures of nature within this parish, except here and there a few quarries of hard and durable stone for building.

This is a perpetual curacy, writes Jones, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty; the tythes of the whole parish belong to the archdeacon of Brecon, who ought to nominate the curate, but a want of liberality or foresight, not only in the rector and vicar but in the prelates of the see, while that regulation was in contemplation, has created some difficulties in this case and will considerably injure the patronage of the church; prior to that event these parochial chapels, frequently built by some great man for the ease and convenience of himself and family, when the mother church was at a distance, upon his death or removal, or by the negligence or inattention of his descendants, had no salary annexed to them, and the curate was often left to a precarious support arising from the benevolence of the neighbouring inhabitants for his livelihood; in general, however, it was (as was reasonable) the duty of the proprietor of the tythes to allow a stipend to the officiating minister, this charge they were very ready to throw off their own shoulders; when, therefore, they demised them, they caused a covenant to be inserted in the lease, that the lessee should, at his own expense, find and provide a curate to serve the church, but when the augmentation took place and especially when it occurred, as has been the case in some places, three or four times over, the curacy became better than the generality of livings, the lessee then claimed to exercise that as a privilege and right which was originally a burden upon him, and the bishop, as well as the rector or vicar of the mother church, has by this means lost the nomination to several curacies of this description within the county of Brecon, as will be seen hereafter.

There is no parsonage house or glebe within this parish. It is called Landon in Pope Nicholas's taxation, and valued at £8 0s. 0d.—Tenths 16s.

The certified value in the king's books is only £6 0s. 0d.

The register book of this parish commences in 1709, and the curacy is not in charge.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

Thus far Theophilus Jones' account of this church and Llanthew parish. Major H. S. Davies, of the 52nd Light Infantry, who was stationed in Brecon about 1846, and wrote a great deal, from personal observation, regarding the antiquities of this district, thus describes the castle and church of Llanthew in his time. "A small portion," he writes, "of the castle exists, and a considerable part of the wall, in which are some remains of an early English door, and an arched fountain, apparently of Norman date, affording a supply on both sides of the wall, for the convenience of the villagers as well as the inmates of the Castle; this is still in use, and the water is of excellent purity. The church . . . comprises a nave, barbarously rebuilt with brick, a chancel, and two transepts, over which a finely proportioned Norman tower rises. The north transept has a peculiar feature, being lighted only by a long window splaying inwards, about two inches in width, like an oillet hole, and admitting only sufficient light to allow of gaining the foot of a staircase, a very ponderous construction, serving as a buttress to one angle of the tower, and by which access is gained to the upper story in the tower. . . . The chancel is in its primitive state, and very rude. It is lighted in its east end by three lancet lights, which splay inward very widely. It has two windows on the north and south sides, with the addition of a very early door on the south, and an early English stone bench on each side of the door running east and west. Llanddew Church has no buttresses, but the lower portion of wall splays outwards as it approaches the foundation, and thus acts the part of one. It is to be regretted that the chancel is used as a burial place for the poor of Llanddew, as also by the inhabitants of the parish on the other side of Usk, at Christ College, which, being extra-parochial, and belonging to Llanddew (its mother church), they claim a right to carry their dead thither, their ancestors having been for ages buried at that place. It may certainly seem natural that they should wish to mingle their dust with that of many generations of their forefathers, and that their bodies should rest together at their ancient mother church of Llanddew."



The author of this description made several drawings upon the occasion of his visit, and these, with many others, relating to this part of the county, were presented to the Archæological Institute, but they are no longer available, or they would be reproduced here.

THE RESTORATIONS, AND ANCIENT STONES.

About twenty years later, Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart., visited the church, and has left this description of it: "Llanddew is a small cruciform church without aisles and with central tower. The state of the church is truly deplorable. The nave only is used for service, and partitioned off by a boarded division under west tower arch. The south transept is walled out, and was formerly used as a school, which has now been given up for want of funds. The north transept is dilapidated and without pavement. The chancel, though dirty and neglected, is capable of being improved, and not so much out of repair as the rest. The chancel is really good Early English, with the features unaltered and well preserved. The rest of the church may be also of Early English origin, but the character has been much obliterated. The tower is low, rude, and clumsy, having square belfry-window, and a painted roof of tiles. It stands upon four very plain semi-circular arches which open to the nave, chancel, and transepts. The windows of the nave are modern insertions and there are none on the north side. The south porch is large and plain. The nave is pewed, and looks cold and damp. Against the partition at the east of the nave is a shabby chest, used as the altar. There is a lancet window, without glass, on the east side of the north transept, which is in a truly wretched condition, and contains the steps to the steeple. The chancel is an unusually good Early English specimen for Wales. It has on each side three lancet windows; that nearest the west, on the south side, has the sill cut partly away, forming a kind of seat. At the east end is a triplet with hood-mouldings; the centre light is the highest. The south door of the chancel has a trefoil head, with a hood of very good work. The roof of the chancel is vaulted in stone. The nave has a modern ceiling. There are hagioscopes from both transepts into the chancel. There is a small square recess in the east wall, and on the north a rude, pointed piscina. Both on the north and south are stone brackets opposite to each other. The font is now in the chancel and apparently never used: it has a large circular bowl on a quadrangular stem, with angles chamfered, and no base. The outer walls are whitewashed."

The restoration of the church was commenced in the summer of 1883, in the course of which additional proofs of its antiquity were discovered. Underneath the whitewash on the chancel walls traces of illuminations and sacred texts were discovered. On the north wall were portions of the Lord's Prayer in Welsh, the characters and spelling clearly pointing to a period not much later, if any, than that in which the Bible was translated into the Welsh language; and on the intersection of the south transept, just above the squint, were found the faded remains of a well executed fresco of an angelic form.

The Rev. J. Lane Davies made sketches and rubbings of two earved stones ornamented with lozenge-shaped devices, accompanying, on the larger fragment, the representation of a Maltese-formed cross with dilated ends to the limbs, which at some former period had been used as the top stones of the quoins carrying the coping of the east gable of the church, and which had plainly been hammer-dressed on three sides.

The larger and more perfect of these two fragments measured 30 by 14 inches, and the other, which had a portion of the right hand ornament cut away, was 30 inches by 9. The ornament of the two portions was continuous and incised to the depth of three-quarters of an inch; so that the stone, when unbroken, must have been 5 feet long by probably 18 inches wide; whence it may be conjectured either that it was an upright cross with a long stem, or a coffin-lid. As, however, the stones were at least a foot thick, the former suggestion seems the more probable. The ornament was very peculiar, and unlike any other discovered in Wales, bearing a slight resemblance, in the numerous lozenge and square spaces into which it was divided, to the Llowes Cross. The form of the cross, in the upper portion of the larger piece, was also very peculiar; the ends of the limbs being marked with triangular space occupying the place of titulas was marked with slender diagonal and straight lines, forming a smaller series of lozenges. Between this and the top of the cross was a space formed by a trough cut to receive the coping. As the sculpture on the smaller portion was *across* the natural bedding of the stone, whilst it was *on* it on the larger piece, it is probable, as suggested to Mr. J. O. Westwood by Mr. J. R. Cobb, that the stone was originally sculptured on each side, thus supporting the idea that it was originally an upright pillar or churchyard cross.

Mr. Cobb sent Mr. Westwood rubbings of another stone which had been built into the wall of the south transept which, from its character, has been supposed to be pre-Norman. This stone was oval in shape, 20 inches long by 12 wide; its face very uneven and scaly, clearly not having been



dressed or rubbed before the cross was cut, as the lines of the latter are continued over the inequalities. The cross was very plain, and formed of double parallel lines surrounded by double circular lines, resembling that of the Trallong stone. The lower part of the stem of the cross seems to have been cut off, and within one of the lower spaces between the arms of the cross was an inscription consisting of only six letters, which, however, are palæographically of considerable interest. The first two letters resembled two y y; but Mr. Westwood considered them to represent a w. The next tall letter was joined by a short oblique stroke to the outer line of the second y, and being conjoined with it forms, as he believed, a capital A. This was followed by an L with the bottom stroke oblique. Then follow four straight strokes which are somewhat blurred in the lower part. These seem to represent MI, followed by a curved stroke and oblique dash, which it is presumed are a terminal e=wALmie. The letters are formed of slender, simple, incised lines about two-thirds of an inch long. Mr. Westwood supposed they may be of the eleventh or twelfth century.

Mr. Cobb also sent Mr. Westwood a drawing of another interesting stone which, *inverted*, was placed as a finial at the point of the east gable; but which, when examined, must evidently have been used as a piscina, being too small for a font. The larger, upper part (on which it rested upon the gable) was quadrangular, being 9 inches square, with a cable-moulding round the top edge, and another similar cable about 6 inches lower. The lower portion of the capital, as it might be called, was 3 inches deep, formed into wide scallops; and the basal portion, or stem of the structure, was quadrilobed, measuring 7 inches across the widest part, and 5 inches between the sunk part of the lobes. The upper part had a well formed cistern, 5 inches square, gradually diminishing to a hole  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, which passed out on a curve to the back, or apparently unsculptured side, at the junction of the capital with the basal pillar. As placed, reversed, on the gable, the cistern and hole had no function whatever. Three of the semi-circular lobes of the support plainly showed sculpture, but were very much weathered. The present piscinal recess in the chancel is very ill formed, but it is pretty clear that it was once square. If square, it would hold this stone; but the drain in the stone would not fit. It may, however, be further suggested that this was a holy water stoup, or was connected with the font, and used in the office of holy baptism as a receptacle for the water which had escaped from the head of the baptised infant—a use of which other analogous instances have been traced by Miss E. Swann, niece of Mr. Westwood.

The chancel, transepts, and tower were restored in 1894 at a cost of £1,120, and in 1900 the nave, which had long been disused, was also restored at a cost of about £500. In 1899 the parish received a grant of £40 from the Incorporated Society for Church Building on condition that all sittings were made free to the parishioners. The pulpit is of oak and was put in the church during the Rev. W. Howell's incumbency to the "memory of Giraldus Cambrensis, Archdeacon of Brecon 1175-1203." The lectern, likewise, is of oak, and was the gift of Mrs. Jones, of Oaklands, and is inscribed "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Edward Jones, of Oaklands, in this parish, and Snatchwood Park, Monmouthshire, born Dec. 4, 1836, and entered into rest Sept. 4, 1903"; and the Bible and Prayer Books were the gift of the same family. The font is in the north transept, which is also used as a vestry.

#### THE PRESENT MONUMENTS.

There were but few monumental stones in the church when we visited it in 1907; but piled together in a corner of the churchyard were several stones which had been hung on the walls within or without the building. The stones within the walls include the following: "Near this tablet lie the remains of Thomas Morgans, late of Velinnewydd, in the parish of Llandeovalley, who died Feb. 27, 1814, aged 34 years; also of James, son of the abovenamed Thomas Morgans, who died Sept. 9, 1813, aged 18 months."

"In memory of David, son of David Williams, late of Llanfrynach, by Ann his wife, who died in 1823; also of Mary Ann, dau. of Roger Williams, of Gwernvale, in the parish of Crickhowell, by Ann his wife, the abovenamed, who died 1825, aged 11 months."

"Sacred to the memory of Jenkin Jones, of Newcastle, in this village, gent., who died April 7, 1824, aged 42; and to Mary Ann Jones, his wife, who died January 24, 1845, aged 64."

"John Williams, gent., of Upper Penwain, in this parish, who died February 5th, 1855, aged 59." Also, "Roger Williams, late of Penwain uchaf, in this parish, gent., who died April 21, 1833, aged 73; and Alice his wife, died 3rd June, 1840, aged 73."

"Opposite are the remains of Thomas Jones, late officer of excise, who departed this life at Gwarcae, Feb. 10th, 1864, aged 64." Near by, there is a stone "To the memory of Ann Davies, who died at Old Castle, in this village, September 25, 1848, aged 60."



The stones already referred to as lying loose in the churchyard are—"In memory of John Morgan, of this parish, who died January 7, 1786, aged 36"; also of his son, an infant.

"Underneath lie the remains of Robert Davies, late of Cwmnant y moch, in this parish, who died January 8, 1819, aged 83," and of his wife Alice, who died 1822, aged 74.

"Underneath lie the remains of Roger Jones, late of Penwain uchaf, in this parish, gent., who died August the 7th, 1805, aged 81. Also underneath lie the remains of Elinor, daughter of Roger Williams, of Pen y wain, in this parish, gent., who died Oct. 6, 1821, aged 28."

"Underneath lie the remains of William, son of John Jones, late of Court, in this village, who died June 25, 1794, aged 2 years." Also of the above John Jones, who died Nov. 13, 1808, aged 62, and Lewis his son, who died June 18, 1793, aged 34; and also Elizabeth, relict of John Jones (daughter of John Jones, Esq., of Heolfanog), who died March 26, 1798, aged 72 years.

"Underneath lie the remains of John, son of David Thomas, Brecon, who died June 9, 1801," and also an infant of the same family.

"To the memory of Margaret, relict of John Jones, late of the Swan Inn, in this village, maltster, who died Dec. 10, 1813, aged 67."

The modern monuments standing in the churchyard are to a son of the Handley family of Ffynonau; the Price Williamses of Gwernvale, Crickhowell; the Williamses of the Wern; and near the porch, in a large railed space, is the burial ground of the late vicar, the Rev. J. Lane Davies, and members of his family. Mr. Davies was vicar of Llanddew with Battle from 1862 to 1903, when he died on October 4. This burial ground contains the remains of his first wife Phœbe, who died in 1875; John Lane, his eldest son, died 1881; Mary, eldest daughter, died 1869; Adeline, died January 21, 1875; Mary Lane, died March 10, 1892. There are other memorials to the Powells of Alexanderstone, Davieses and Lewises of Gwarcae, and of Pentwyn, Joneses of Upper Talwen, &c. But of the old sepulchral stones, not a trace remains; most, if not all, of them were broken up between the years 1820 and 1868.

There is a small Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in the village, erected in 1866; and from the Records of Quarter Sessions we learn that one of the earliest licenses to preach was granted to a minister in this parish.

A substantial vicarage house was built within the old Palace grounds about the year 1869. The net income is now £215; from 1740 to 1817 it was augmented by a sum of £1,000 from Queen Anne's Bounty. The population, which in 1895 was 319, had dwindled to 183 in 1905—several substantial houses and cottages being in ruins; there were, 25 years ago, three public-houses in the village, but there are none now.

There are several large farmhouses in the parish, and Oaklands, which is a well-appointed country residence, is now the property and occasional residence of the Joneses of Snatchwood, in Monmouthshire; Mrs. Jones, the widow of the late owner, being a sister to Rees Williams, Esq., J.P., of Aberyskir. Peytindu, already referred to in conjunction with Peytingwyn and Peytinglas, once the property of Sir David Gam's father, was a few years ago but an indifferent farmhouse residence; but recently the property was acquired by Mr. David Jones, of Dowlais, a Breconshire gentleman who made a fortune in trade in South Wales, and the house was considerably enlarged and made into a country seat. Mr. David Jones has since been added to the Commission of the Peace for the county by the Lord Lieutenant.

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1397.—		Guy de Mona, Lord Bishop.	1741.—The bishop of Saint		Thomas Lewis.
1572.—The Bishop of Saint		Sir Thomas David Morgan.	David's		
			1783.—The lessees of the tythes		Samuel Evans.
1662.— <sup>1</sup>		Andrew Watkins.	1836.—		Walter Powell.
1683.—Ditto.		John Rice. <sup>2</sup>	1838.—		T. B. Evans.
1723.—		Lewis Morgan.	1846.—		Morgan Jones, B.A.
1729.—		Samuel Jones.	1862.—The Archdeacon of		J. Lane Davies.
1736.—		David Morgan.	Brecon.		
			1903.—Ditto.		William Howell.

<sup>1</sup> This living was vacant six years during the rebellion in the time of Charles the First. See Walker's Sufferings of Clergy.

<sup>2</sup> He married one of the daughters and coheiresses of Thomas Draper of Brocon, who died in 1676. This Mr. Draper kept his town and country house; the present inhabitants will perhaps be surprized when they hear that the latter was situated in the Struet.



## GARTHBRENGY, or GALLTBRENGY,

IS according to Adams's Index Villaris, in latitude 52 3, long. 3 20, west, which is nearly if not perfectly correct. The first syllable of the two names above mentioned differ very little in signification, both mean an ascent, but the Allt or Gallt is generally a woody steep; the remaining two syllables are not so easily defined. The parish is mostly on sidelong ground and rises rather abruptly from the banks of the Honddu, and on the north and north east of the church, which is surrounded with a few straggling cottages, is a hill or high ridge. Garthbrengy or Galltbrengy may therefore mean Gallt y bryn gu, the woody ascent to Mount Pleasant, the lower part having been in all probability covered with underwood; this will in some measure remove the difficulty, but we are by no means satisfied with the definition and only give it thus until a clearer can be discovered.

The church, dedicated to Saint David, is situated upon an eminence, and is overlooked by a mountain still higher on the north; it consists of a nave and an aisle on the north, equal in breadth to the church, the roof panelled fret-wise, divided from the former by three pillars and as many gothic arches, but the floor is of earth and uneven, the pews are irregular, decayed and broken, the church is in part only flagged, the stones being frequently removed, the vile custom of burying within the walls still continuing here as at Llanddew. The nave is barn roofed, and the pulpit, in which as is commonly the case in our country churches, the minister stands *in his own light* with his back to the window, is the section of a meal tub; near it are the steps to the rood loft, now taken down, and not far from the pulpit is a little bell, formerly rung on the elevation of the host in the time of mass; this was not in general affixed to the church, but was carried in the hand before the host when administered to a sick person.<sup>1</sup>

On the west end is a tower, in which are four small but musical bells. The chancel is in tolerable repair, and within the communion rails are some grave-stones to the memory of the Gwyns of Pant y corred. On one, "Here lieth the body of Thomas Gwyn of Pant y corred, gent., who died 10th December, 1737, *æt* 50." Next stone, "Ann Gwyn, wife of Thomas Gwyn of Pant y corred, and daughter of Lewis Havard of Senni, gent.: they had issue Thomas, Samuel and Edward. Anne Gwyn, daughter of the above named Thomas by Margaret his wife, died August 27, 1757, *æt* 29. Thomas Gwyn of Pant y corred, junior, *obiit* 1730, *æt* 26, he left issue Thomas, Anne and Catherine. Thomas Gwyn, son of the above, died ——— 1749, aged ———." There is no table of charitable donations here, nor do we find that any lands or sums of money have been given or bequeathed towards the support of the poor of this parish.

## THE PEYTINS AND THE GAMS.

The whole of Garthbrengy at one time or other, and indeed (as before observed) the whole of the county has been in the possession of the family of the Gams, but the mansion and principal residence of the valorous ancestor, from whom they derive their name, was at Peytyn Gwin, in this parish, although upon his being obliged to quit Breconshire, it is probable his younger brother Gwilym, purchased it from him, and his descendants, for some generations, inherited it, until it afterwards returned to Sir David Gam's, as will be seen by and bye. This tenement, together with two others adjoining, called Peytyn du and Peytyn glâs were purchased, say our heralds, by Llewelyn, the father of Sir David Gam, for three hundred marks, from William Peyton, descended from the knight of that name, to whom Bernard Newmarch gave the manor from him called Peyton, and corruptly, *Peytyn* gwyn, du, and glâs, signifying white, black and green, and being intended to describe the three farms by some variation in the colour of the soil, either real or imaginary. That Sir David's father purchased the Peytyns is almost certain, but if it was from one of the Peytons, the latter had long before this parted with his patronymic surname. Sir Richard Peyton, as far as appears by the short and imperfect pedigree of this family now remaining, had issue only one son, William Peyton, the last who retained that name, his son, being called Morgan *William* of Devynock. It is impossible that this William Peyton could have sold these farms to Llewelyn, as he lived near three hundred years before him: it is true another William Peyton, or Gulielmus Pictaviensis, occurs about the middle of the twelfth century as a witness to a grant of one of the Baskervilles to the Priory of Brecon, but still he is much too early to be the vendor of this property, and we are inclined to think either that he was of a branch of this family, who settled in Herefordshire soon after Bernard's expedition into Wales, or else that he was of a different stock, and that Pictaviensis Poictevin, or de Poictou, was only descriptive of the country from whence both came; for it is clear, from the difference of the

<sup>1</sup> Collectanea curiosa, vol. II. p. 183.



arms, that the present Peytons, baronets of Isleham, in Cambridgeshire, are not from the same *stirps* with our Peytons, the one bearing immemorially, sable, a cross engrailed *Or*, whereas our Welsh adventurer and his posterity always bore vert, a hind lodged argent.

The probability is, that one of the Havards of Pontwilym, the powerful neighbours of the Peytons, obtained the property from the latter, either by intermarriage or purchase, or perhaps by violence, for we find by the MS. genealogies in our possession that Howel fychan of Ffrwdgrech married Joan the daughter of William Havard, and their grandson is described as Howel of Peytyn glâs, as is also his son Gwilym, whose daughter Jennet<sup>\*</sup> married John Gwyn Griffith, one of the descendants of Einon Sais, the ancestor of Llewelyn and Sir David Gam.

#### SIR DAVID GAM.

Hence, then, it appears, that one of the Peytyns at least was in the possession of this family long prior to the birth of Llewelyn, who therefore must either have purchased the Peytyns from one of his own relations, or else if any one of the descendants of Sir Richard Peyton sold them, he must have taken a Welsh name and had long lost his Norman appellation; be this as it may, David ap Llewelyn, though the third son of the purchaser, certainly resided during the early part of his life at Peytyn Gwin: the precise year of his birth cannot be ascertained. Pennant says his competitor Glyndwr was born in 1350: Sir David was probably some years his junior, or he would have been of too advanced a period in life to have appeared as a warrior at Agincourt in 1415, when personal strength was of essential consequence in battle. At the same time it must be observed that it is probable he could not have been under fifty-five or sixty years of age at this memorable victory, for he had several children and even grandchildren at the time he embarked in the expedition to France. He was athletic in person, his hair red, and he squinted, from whence he was called Dafydd Gam. Cam generally means crooked,<sup>1</sup> but from long habit and a perversion of the language, when applied to the person, it implies any defect in the limbs or features. Powel, in his *History of Wales*, has taken care not only to record this deformity, but he wishes his readers to believe that nature has perpetuated it, and that all his family continue to squint to this day!! It is unnecessary to deny so absurd an assertion; from portraits of some of the family still remaining, it appears that so far from being distinguished by this unfortunate obliquity of vision, many of them were remarkably handsome and their features perfectly regular. It is, however, not a little extraordinary that the Welsh should, in this instance, as they have in many others, seize upon this peculiarity, and preserve it as a memento in the family, of the imperfection of the person of their ancestor; yet thus it is perpetually, and while the common names of Morgan, Thomas, Gwilym, &c., are ringing the changes and shifting places continually, the names of Gwyn, Llwyd, Coch, Cam, fair, grey headed, red headed, squinting, &c., remain steadily in the respective families to which they have been applied, as long as they remain. Nay, we have an instance where even a filthy disease has conferred a surname which the descendants of the person afflicted seem to feel no anxiety or wish to conceal.<sup>2</sup>

#### ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE OWEN GLYNDWR.

Mr. Carte correctly observes that Sir David Gam held his estate of the *honor* of Hereford, that he had long been in the service of Bolingbroke and was firmly attached to his interest; when it is recollected that Henry the Fourth was earl of Hereford and lord of Brecon in the time of Sir David Gam, we shall not be at a loss to discover the motives which governed his political conduct, but the first public act of his life consigns to his memory a load of infamy, which his death will barely remove. Instead of attacking the enraged lion of Gwynedd in the field, instead of hurling defiance against his adversary, in audible language and in open day, he came like a midnight assassin to the court of Glyndwr, and sought to serve his employer by removing a troublesome insurgent at the expense of his own character and future happiness.

This iniquitous attempt was made in 1402, when Owen was holding his parliament at Machynlleth in Montgomeryshire. "At this meeting (says Mr. Pennant) he narrowly escaped assassination. Among the chieftains who came to support his title was a gentleman called David Gam or the *one eyed*; notwithstanding he had married a sister of Glyndwr, yet such a furious hatred had he conceived to his cause that he appeared at the assembly with the secret and treacherous resolution of murdering his prince and brother-in-law. Carte says he was instigated to it by Henry, but gives no authority; party zeal or hopes of reward, probably determined him to so nefarious a deed: he was a fit instrument for the purpose, a man of unshaken courage, which was afterwards put to the proof, in the following reign, at the battle of Agincourt."

<sup>1</sup> From hence (probably) the vulgar English phrase of Game Leg, meaning a crooked or bandy leg.

<sup>2</sup> Thus Llewelyn, the son of William, the son of Howel, surnamed the *scabby*, subscribes himself Llewelyn ap Gwilym ap Hywel y *grach*, and Sir David Gam's wife is always called, in the pedigrees, Gwenllian the daughter of Hywel y *grach*, by which no mark of disrespect is intended to the memory of her father.



In this account there is too much truth, and the tale, unfortunately for the fame of Sir David Gam, is too well attested by Powel and other authors to be denied, but Pennant is incorrect, when he says he had but one eye, and as we should give even the devil his due, he is equally mistaken, when he tells us that Glyndwr was his prince or his brother-in-law; he owed him no allegiance, nor was he in anywise of affinity or connected with him: his journey to Machynlleth, therefore, must have been to offer assistance and not to do homage. Sir David Gam married a daughter of a gentleman of considerable landed property, resident in Elvel, on the banks of the Wyc, in Radnorshire; Glyndwr's wife was a daughter of Sir David Hanmer, whose only sister, Morfydd, married *David ap Ednyfed Gam*, a North Wales nobleman, descended from Tudor Trevor. The courage of Sir David Gam is unquestionable, yet Mr. Pennant was wrong when for that reason he supposed him a fit instrument for the purposes of assassination, and though Sir David was prevailed upon to debase himself by this dark design, in general a brave man, who trembles only at the thoughts of a cowardly act, is very ill calculated to assist in the perpetration of a midnight murder.

## RELEASE OF DAVID GAM FROM PRISON.

That this foul plot was discovered no one will lament. David was seized, imprisoned, and would have met with the fate he deserved, if he had not been saved by the intercession of some of Owen's best friends: he continued in confinement until 1412; upon the 14th June, in which year, a commission issued from the crown, directed to the king's well beloved esquire, Llewelyn ap Howel, father of his Majesty's well beloved esquire, "David Gamme," holding of the crown in the lordship of Brech., John Tiptoft, then seneschal of Brech, and William Botiller, receiver, reciting his having been taken prisoner, "by Owen de Glendourdy, rebel and traitor," empowering them or either of them to treat for his ransom and to exchange for him any *Welshmen*, adherents, favourers, succourers or assistants of the said Owen.<sup>1</sup> The commissioners, it appears, succeeding in releasing the king's well beloved esquire, David Gamme, upon his engaging (as it is said) not to bear arms or oppose the measures of Owen. For this favour he showed the same sense of gratitude as criminals frequently entertain for those who have saved their lives; attacking the partizans of that chieftain wherever he met them, and betraying his designs to the English monarch whenever he could discover them. This conduct drew down upon him the vengeance of his insulted and abused adversary, who, entering Breconshire with a body of his troops, would probably have prevented David Gam from molesting him in future if he had met him; fortunately for the lord of Peytyn gwin he was not at home when the enemy arrived. As a punishment for repeated injuries received from him, Owen burnt his house to the ground; after which, meeting with one of David's tenants on the road in his return, he tauntingly told him,

O' weli di wr coch cam,  
Yn 'mofyn ei gyrnigwen,<sup>2</sup>  
D'wed y bod hi dan y lan,  
A nod y glo ar ei phen.

If a squinting red hair'd knave,  
Meet thee, and perchance should crave  
To know what fate his house befell,  
Say that the cinder-mark will tell.

## DAVID KILLS RICHARD FAWR OF SLWCH.

David Gam had no sooner procured his liberty, and been released from one prison, than he seems anxious to deserve commitment to another; for shortly after he was liberated by Owen, Hugh Thomas<sup>3</sup> tells us (though he places this event at too early a period) "he slew his kinsman Richard fawr, lord of Slwch, in an unhappy quarrel in the *high street* of Brecon, for which he was obliged to leave this country." From this time forward we know nothing further of the lord of Peytyn gwin, except that notwithstanding the crime he had committed, the authority of the house of Lancaster was sufficient to protect him for a short time in Breconshire, while he raised a body of men for the service of his sovereign, when he embarked with him in 1415, in his expedition to France, and here such a blaze of glory bursts around him as he resigns his boisterous existence, that the English historians are dazzled with its lustre, and the Welsh have agreed to wink at his vices. Sir Walter Raleigh has an eulogium upon his bravery and exploits in the field of Agincourt, in which he prefers his greatness of soul to that of Mago, and compares him to Hannibal; while his countrymen, in consideration of this day's good services, have unanimously determined to forget his treachery towards Glyndwr, and to pardon the murder of Richard fawr.

## KNIGHTED ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

His reply to the king, on reviewing the French army, his courage and gallantry in the battle, in which he is said to have saved the king's life by the loss of his own, his son in law's, and his

<sup>1</sup> Rymer, Fæd. tom. VIII. fo. 753.

<sup>2</sup> Gyrnigwen, literally the white horned, it is generally given as the description of a sheep; here, perhaps, it alluded to the external appearance of the house, the roof of which, like that of Newton, formed a kind of cone, with a stack of white chimnies at the apex, which may be supposed to have some resemblance to an *exalted horn*.

<sup>3</sup> MS. essay towards the History of Breconshire. Bodl. Lib. Oxon.



kinsman's death, are so well known, that it would be superfluous to repeat them. Hugh Thomas says he was knighted for his exploits after the battle, but that he soon died of his wounds; the general opinion is, that he died during the heat of the action, and that the king knighted him as he was expiring in the field.<sup>1</sup> His own companions, in glory and in death, were Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine in Herefordshire, and Walter Lloyd, more correctly Watkin Llwyd of Brecknock, by which the lordship or territory and not the town is meant. Sir Roger Vaughan had married Gwladis, the only daughter of Sir David Gam, by whom he had eight children, one of whom, Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower, the third son, though very young, was, we are inclined to think, in this battle, not only because he alone, of all the children, received the honour of knighthood, but his connexions in life shew him to have associated with the heroes of Agincourt, for he married for his second wife Margaret, daughter of James Lord Audley, slain at Bloreheath in 1458, who was certainly in this expedition. The grandfather of this Margaret, Dugdale tells us in his *Baronage*, was associated in 5th Henry Fourth for one year with Richard Beauchamp earl of Warwick, in the defence of the castle, town and lordship of Brecon against Glyndwr, having one hundred men at arms and three hundred archers on horesback assigned him for that service, the men at arms being each paid twelve pence a day, and the archers six pence.<sup>2</sup>

#### FIRST EARL OF PEMBROKE.

Sir Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine's widow, Gwladis, married secondly Sir William Thomas of Raglan, another of the combatants at Agincourt, whom the king created a knight banneret for his bravery, by whom she had issue William, who took by royal command the surname of Herbert, first earl of Pembroke, Sir Richard Herbert and other children.

The other companion of Sir David Gam in this fight was Watkin Llwyd of Marchogtir, now called Ynis y marchog, the knight's land or the knight's Isle near Trecastle; he married Agnes daughter of John or Jenkin<sup>3</sup> ap Walter Sais or Walter hên, the grandfather of Sir Roger Vaughan of Bredwardine, who was therefore first cousin to the wife of Watkin Llwyd. They were also descended from the same common ancestor, Cradoc Fraich fras, through the line of Bleddin ap Maenarch and his grandson Trahaern fychan, lord of Llangorse, who was murdered by William de Breos in 1197. Watkin, the son of David, the son of Rhys, the son of Hywel, the son of Trahaern fychan, is described as of Marchogtir, and married Elizabeth the daughter of Philpot Walbeoff of Llanhamlach, by whom he had issue Jeuan, the father of Watkin, the hero of Agincourt, called Llwyd from his grey hair, but who otherwise, according to the common custom of Wales, would have been known by the name of Watkin ap Jeuan or Watkin Bevan.

#### SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF GAM.

Whether Henry the Fifth rewarded the family of Sir David Gam with something more substantial than this title, which fled almost as soon as it was conferred, does not appear, it is however probable that the king did not forget his obligations to his gallant subject and defender, and that he either granted his descendants territorial possessions or bestowed a sum of money upon them adequate to their wants; for they are immediately seen rising in importance, increasing opulence and numbers for several succeeding centuries. But the anecdotes preserved of them will with greater propriety be introduced in the several parishes where the principal branches settled after their dispersion from the Peytyns, which continued in the descendants of Gwilym, a younger brother of Sir David, for some generations. Evan, the great grandson of this Gwilym, is described to have been of Peytin gwyn, and is said, together with William Powel dew of Castlemadoc, to be the only persons resident in Breconshire in the latter end of the fifteenth century, who were possessed of lands to the value of one hundred pounds per annum. He had issue two daughters, Jane married first Watkin Vaughan of Clâs, who had issue by the above Jane, William Vaughan of Tregunter and Peytyn gwyn, sheriff of Breconshire in 1577, and described of the latter place; he had issue one son and one daughter, the latter of whom was the second wife of Thomas the son of Edward Gwyn of Glyntawe.

By the marriage of Edward Games of Newton with Anne, daughter of Sir William Vaughan of Porthaml, son of Watkin Vaughan of Talgarth above named, upon failure of Jane's male issue by the second husband, the estate of Peytyn gwyn as well as Peytyn du, by some family arrangements and settlements, became the property of the Gameses of Newton, the lineal descendants of Sir David Gam,

<sup>1</sup> Theo. Jones says he had hoped to have given the public a print of Sir David Gam, from a picture which the tradition of the family pronounced to be his portrait; but, unfortunately, it turned out to be a portrait of Sir John Games, the sixth in descent from him.

<sup>2</sup> John, Lord Audley, had the castle of Llandovery assigned to him for the same purpose, in the preceding year, as will be seen by reference to the first vol. It is difficult to comprehend why there should be the inequality above stated, in the pay of the soldiers, and why the foot should have a larger remuneration than the horse.

<sup>3</sup> This John or Jenkin is omitted in some pedigrees.

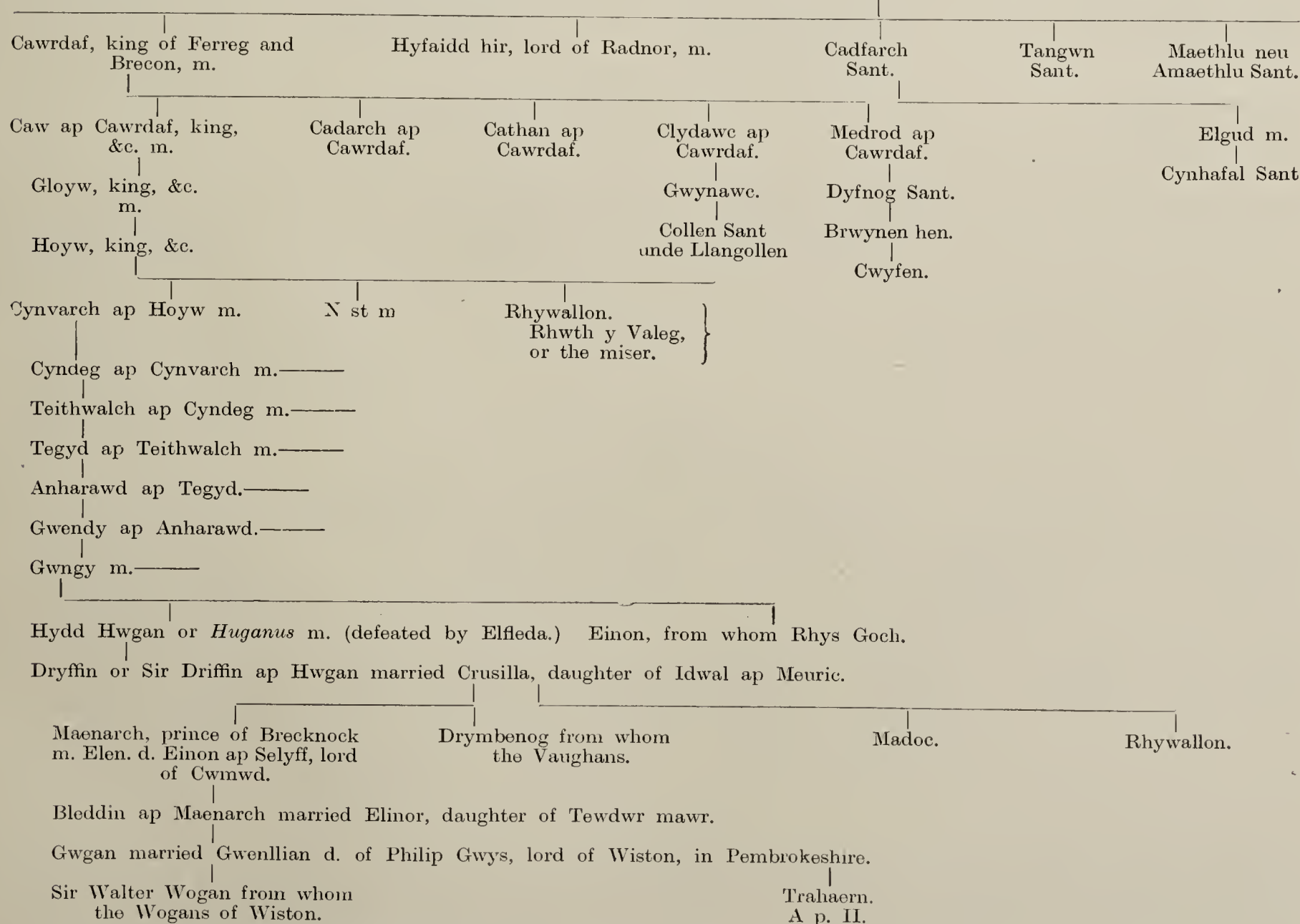


and from them the latter came to the possession of Miss Walker, who married Richard Jenkins of Hensol, the grandfather of the late Lord Talbot, who sold it to Mr. Longfellow<sup>1</sup> of the Lion Inn, in Brecon, who likewise purchased Peytyn gwyn from Mr. Awbrey, to which family we presume it came by marriage. Peytyn glâs had been long alienated by one of the family, and of late years it has belonged to the Prytherchs of Llandeivaillog, one of whom devised it to Thomas Price of Builth, esq., who possessed it about 1810. Talwen fawr and Talwen fach, two farms in this parish, which it is remarkable are copyholds and subject to the jurisdiction of the hallimote court, of the manor of Brecon, likewise continued with the house of Newton until Hoo Games mortgaged and afterwards surrendered them to Jane, widow of Thomas Davies, alderman of Brecon, who was the mother of Maudlen, the wife and afterwards the widow of Thomas Penry of Brecon, which Maudlen in 1673 devised them to her son Rees Penry, who had issue a son and two daughters; he died in 1683, and gave his lands in Garthbreny to trustees to be sold for raising portions for his daughters. The Talwens are afterwards found in the beginning of the seventeenth century in the possession of the Awbreys, how or in what right does not appear, but we are inclined to think that under the will of this Mr. Penry they were sold to Rowland Hughes, who married Mariana, the daughter of Dr. Timothy Awbrey, the issue of this marriage died young; their mother married secondly John William Awbrey, to whom she brought (we presume, under the settlement on her first marriage) these farms. William Awbrey, clerk, their son, sold them to Walter Jeffreys of Brecon, esq.

## I.

## GAMES OF PEYTIN, NEWTON, ABERBRAN, BUCKLAND, &amp;c.

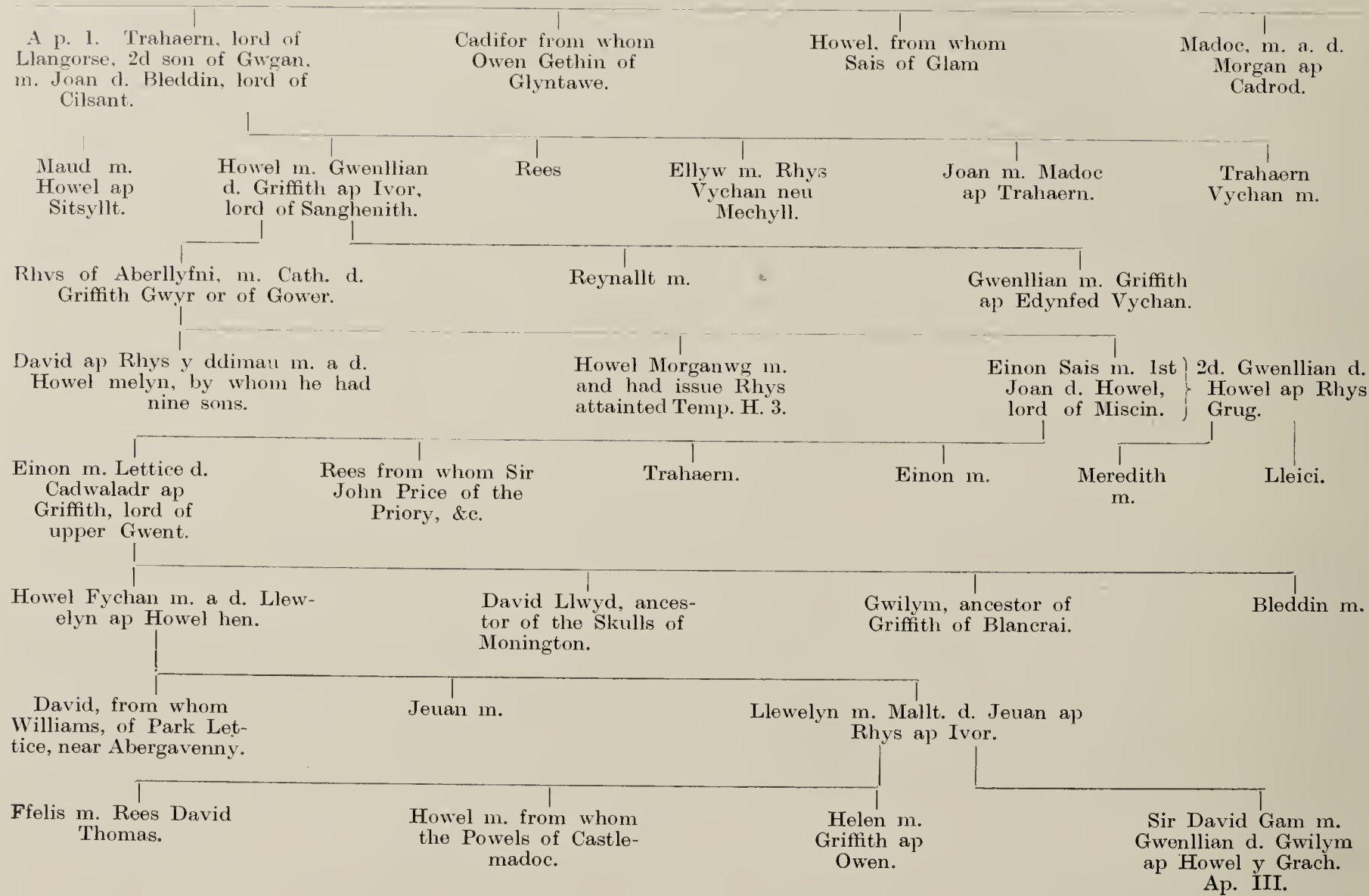
CRADOC FRAICH-FRAS or Cradoc of the strong arm, lord of Gloucester, knight of the dolorous tower and of the round table, to king Arthur, son of Ller Merini or Molwynen, by Gwen or Gwenllian, daughter of Brychan Brecheiniog m. Tegau'r Vron, daughter of king Pelynor (fortasse Pyll Mawr).



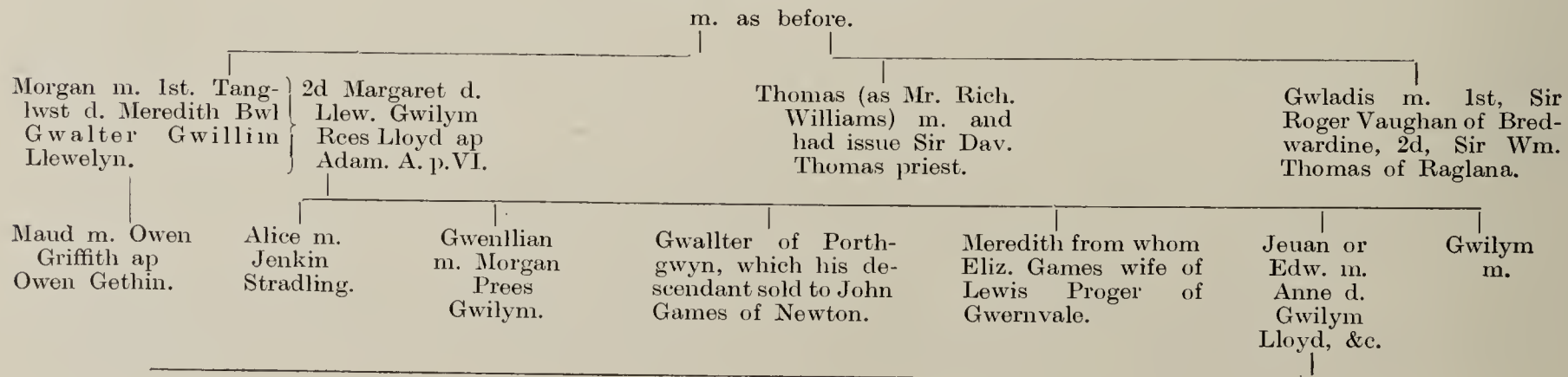
<sup>1</sup> The great and small tithes of Garthbreny were in 1805 offered in the *Cambrian* newspaper for sale for the term of three young lives; and these tithes were then rented at £94 10s. 0d. yearly by Mr. Thomas Longfellow.



## II.



## III.

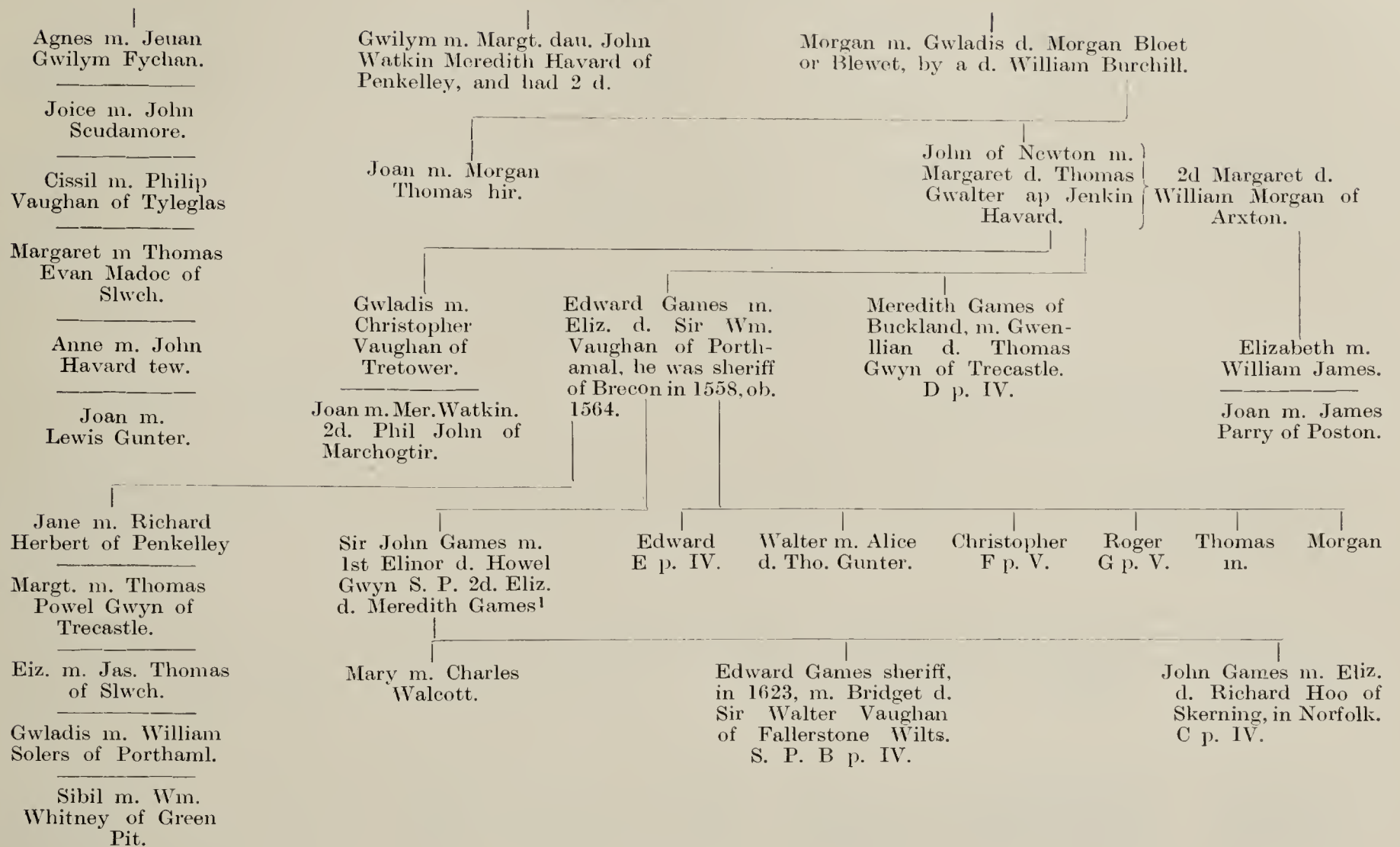
A p. II.  
SIR DAVID GAM.

(See next page.)

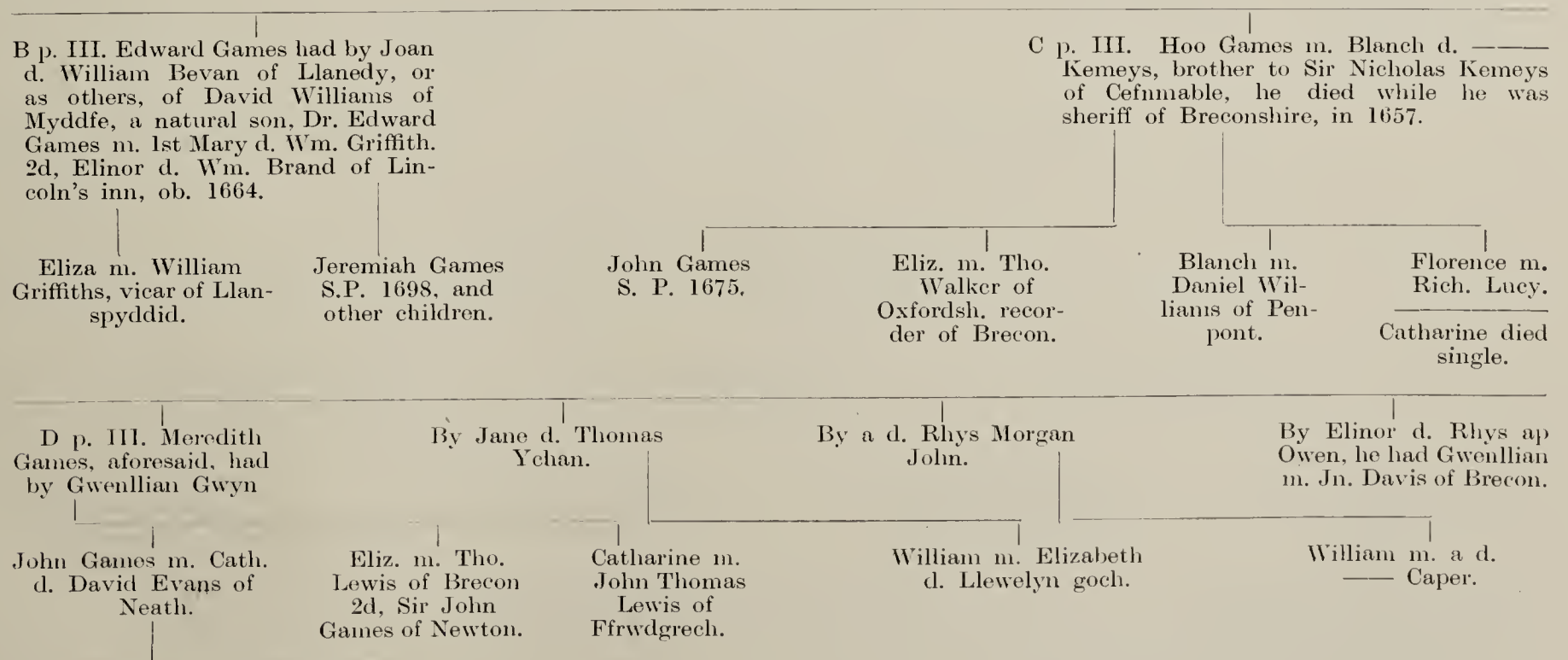
Sir David Gam had also, besides those mentioned on preceding page, five junior brothers. Roger, who married, but does not appear to have left issue; Griffith, from whom are descended the Bowens of Llywél; Richard, Gwilym, from whom the Vaughans of Peyton Gwyn and Howel; he is also said by some pedigrees to have had an elder brother next to Helen, who was ancestor to Jones, of Llangattock, Crickhowell.



(Continued from previous page.)



## IV.

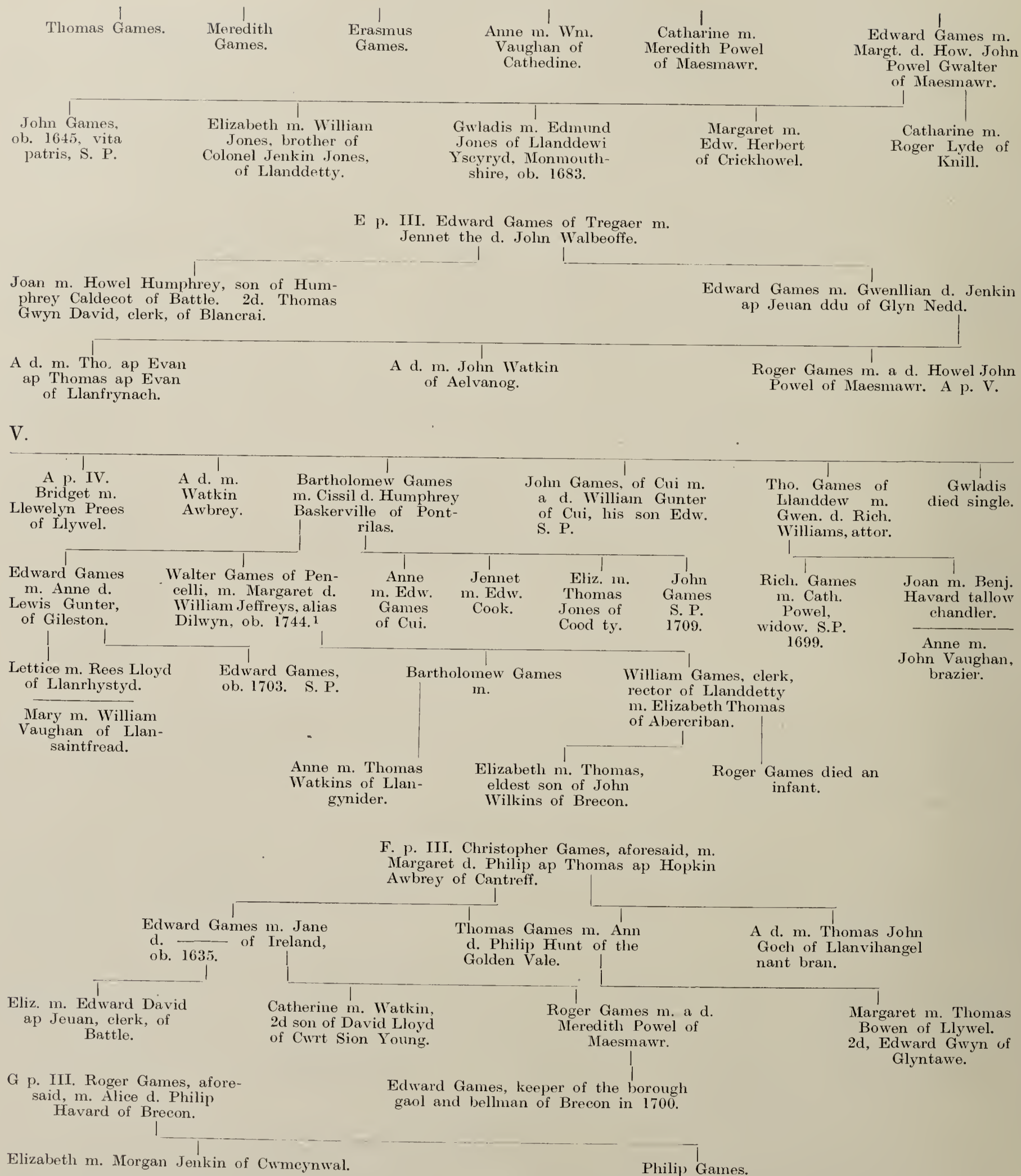


(See next page.)

<sup>1</sup> He was appointed escheator for the Crown of Breconshire, 1625. (Rymer's Fædera, tom. 18). He married, thirdly, Catharine Bradshaw of Presteigne, by whom he had no issue.



(Continued from previous page.)

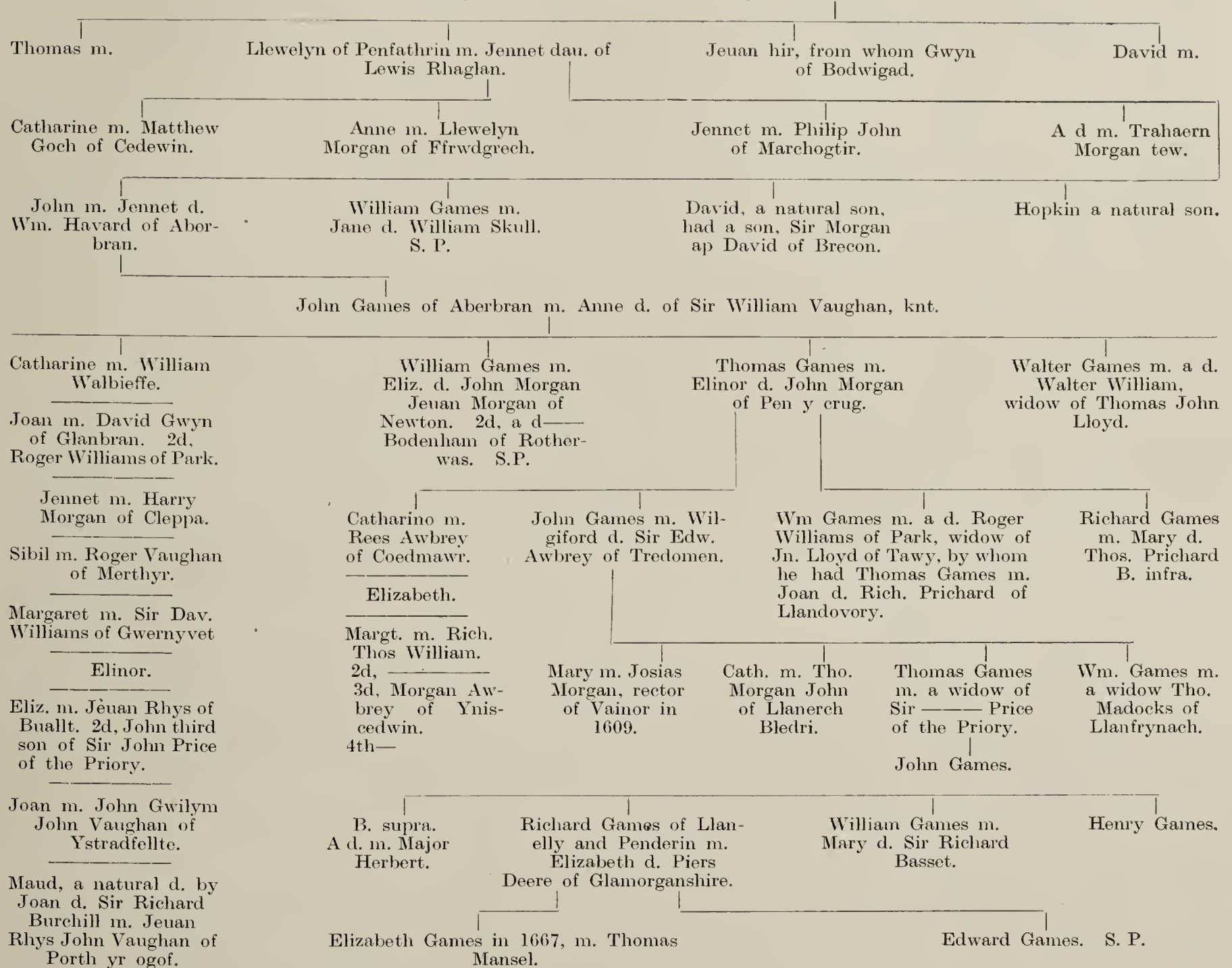


<sup>1</sup> Walter Games of Pencelli had, besides the above, four daughters, Jennet married Edward Havard of Pen y goiffordd; Margaret and Anne died single, and Gwladis m. Howel Jones of Coedty.



## VI.

A p. III. Morgan ap Sir David Gam had by his second wife,



Jones, in his corrections, writes "The fifth of the Games pedigree, Lettice the daughter of Edward Games, of Tregaor is said to have married Rees, instead of Richard Lloyd of Mabws. The abbreviations of Rees and Richard in Welsh MSS. are nearly similar."—EDWIN DAVIES.



Pant y eored, or the Dingle of the Weir, was another part of the property of the Gameses. Upon the second marriage of Thomas Gwyn, son of Edward Gwyn of Glyntawe, with a daughter of Thomas Vaughan of Peytyn glâs,<sup>1</sup> she brought with her Pant y eored, which has continued in this branch of the Gwyns ever since, and upon failure of the male line, it came to Mrs. Llewelyn of Ynis y gerwn, and from her to her son, Mr. Llewelyn of Penlle'rgaer.

The Gwyns of this house, as well as of Glyntawe, always wrote their names with a single *n* and without the *e* final; this addition was made, it is said, by Judge Gwyn of Garth, between whom and the first Gwyn of Pant y eored a violent quarrel arose: the former bore as his arms, sometimes those of Elystan Glodrydd, gules, a lion rampant, regardant *Or*, and sometimes those of Cadwgan his son, argent, three boar's heads erased sable, the crest always a lion rampant regardant, supporting between his four paws a boar's head all *Or*; motto, in a scroll on both sides of the wreath *Fortitudo animi prudentia in periculis*. Gwyn of Pant y eored, upon some affront or insult from his opponent, thrust the sword or dagger of Brychan through the head of Cadwgan, assuming for his crest a sword in pale, with the point upwards, piercing a boar's head, and adopting the motto of *Vim vi vepellere licet*. Upon the marriage of Howel Gwyn of Brynioie with the judge's daughter, the dispute was forgotten, and the latter used his father in law's mode of spelling the name, and his adversary's crest and motto, which have been borne and taken by all the family ever since.

The Peytyns, as well as Pant y eored, are now converted into farm houses: there are two or three situations upon the former tenements, which, according to the late Brunonian phrase, have great *capability* for building and improvements, and the woody gnolls rising above the banks of the Honddu, make, even in their present state a very picturesque appearance; this river bounds the parish through its whole length on the westward, and for the principal part of its course here, is adorned with what a tourist calls a *stripe* of vegetation, which in common parlance means meadow land; indeed there is throughout this parish rather a larger proportion of pasture than in the adjoining one of Llanddew, at the same time, that by far the greatest part of the cultivated land is arable, and though some butter and cheese be made here and a few calves reared, the principal dependence of the farmer is upon his corn and his sheep.

The prebendary of the prebend of Garthbrengy, in the collegiate church of Christ in Brecon, nominates as we apprehend to this perpetual curaey, augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty; at the same time it will be seen in the list of incumbents that the bishop of the see has frequently exercised that right; the prebendary has also the tythes of this parish, which he demises at the reserved rent of ten pounds per annum. There is no parsonage house or glebe here. It is called Karpngy in Pope Nicholas's taxation, and valued at £3 6s. 8d. per annum, tenths 6s. 8d.

Certified value, in the time of Queen Anne, £10 0s. 0d. The register book commences in 1653 and the curaey is not in charge.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

From a large board, now lying loose in that portion of the tower used as a vestry, we learn that the church was "re-built in the years 1833 and 34," when it contained 165 sittings, of which, in consequence of a grant from the "Incorporated Society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of churches and chapels," 85 of that number were declared "free and unappropriated for ever." The board gives the "Rev. David Price, minister, and William Powell, Panty-eored and John Williams, Drainduon, churchwardens." At this period the aisle on the north referred to by Jones, was not rebuilt, but the arches were allowed to remain; nor was the tower restored.

Previous to 1874, the church had again fallen into disrepair, and another restoration was effected. The present church consists of a chancel and nave, with south porch and tower. The arches are still visible, and windows have been inserted in the recesses. None of the windows are of stained glass. The chancel is tiled, and in the centre of the floor space in the choir is a fine monumental stone; it is to the Gwyns, and is referred to by Jones, but the inscription is not correctly given by him. The inscription reads: "Here lyeth the body of Anne Gwyn, the wife of Thomas Gwyn of Pantyeorred, gent., and daughter of Lewis Havard of Senni, in the parish of Devynock, gent. They had issue Thomas, Samuel, and Edward. She dyed September the 29th Ano. Dni. 1725, aged 46. Under the left stone lyeth the body of Ann Gwyn, daughter of the above named Thomas by Margaret his wife; she dyed Augt. 27th, 1757, aged 29." It may be interesting to note that this stone was carved by "I. Gwyn, Brecon," sculptor. There are no other stones now to be seen to the memory of the Gwyn family.

<sup>1</sup> This marriage is omitted in the pedigree of Brychan in the first volume. It was discovered by the perusal of some papers in the register office, which lately come into our hands.



On the south interior wall are several monumental stones, some of which are very thick, and all of them deep cut. First stone, "Underneath lie the body of Anne wife of William Powell of Dan-yr-eglwys, in this parish, who died January 7, 1788, aged 52 years. Also of Jennett, daughter of William Powell, she died July 29, 1802, aged 49 years. Also of the above named William Powell, he died Jan. 6, 1810, aged 88." And on the other half of the same, "Underneath lie the body of John Powell, of Glandwr, in this parish, who died July 23, 1826, aged 61 years. Also of William Powell, of Dan-yr-eglwys, he died June 19, 1829, aged 67 years. Also of Mary wife of William Powell, she died Sept. 26, 1831, aged 84 years." Next stone, "John Jones of this parish, and son of the late Thomas Jones of Pitingwyn, who died May 12, 1835, aged 68; David Jones, saddler, who died at Brecon, March 7, 1845, aged 67 years; Anne Powell, of Glandwr, daughter of the said Thomas Jones, died Oct. 16, 1845, aged 84." Also another, "Underneath lie the remains of Thomas Jones, late of Pityngwyn, in the parish of *Llandevaelog-fach*, who died Oct. the 1st, 1808, aged 76. Also of Magdalen, relict of the said Thomas Jones, who died June the 24, 1809, aged 74." The same stone commemorates the death of Mary wife of William Mott, and daughter of Thos. Jones; she died July 27, 1813, aged 45. Beside this is another, "Opposite are deposited the remains of Mary Williams, wife of John Williams, of Drainduon in this parish (*His remains are interred inside the church*); she died June 8, 1849, aged 78;"—and as the adjoining inscription records John Williams of Drainduon as dying on April 7, 1806, aged 56, we know therefrom that the "pernicious habit" of burial within the church, condemned by Jones, was practiced at that date.

Over the font on the west wall is another stone inscribed, "Near this place lieth the body of Richard Watkins of this parish, also ye remains of Joan his wife and three of his children, viz., Thomas his son departed this life January ye 30th, 1772, aged 22; Elizabeth his daughter and wife of Edward Prytherch, died December ye 18th, 1773, aged 30; and William his son died June the 11th, 1777, aged 30. Also Richard Watkins died September ye 20, 1780, aged 66; Joan his wife di'd Feb. the 17th, 1782, aged 68." On the same wall, "In memory of Isabella, relict of David Thomas late of Glan-dwr in this parish, who died Oct. 7, 1808, aged 80,"—and on this stone we are further reminded: "Who can withstand God's dreadful hand, He spares not young nor old; All living must return to dust, Thou reader art but mould!" Near this is a marble slab, the work of J. Thomas and Son, sculptors, of Brecon, upon which: "This tablet is erected to the memory of Thomas Davies, late Collector of Excise for Wales, East Collection, grandson of William Powell the elder of Danyreglwys, in this parish, he died at Brecon Feb. 26, 1832, aged 53." The last stone to be noticed is one inscribed, "Underneath lie the remains of Mary the relict of Evan Price of Llechach Village in this parish, she died Nov. 3, 1836, aged 74 years. Also of John Price, son of the above named who died Jan. 11, 1836, aged 54."

There are no inscriptions upon the floor of the church. The tower, which was restored in 1901, at a cost of £320, contains four bells; three are inscribed thus: (1) "Si Deus Nobis, cum quis contra nos 1709 (If God for us—then who against us)—David Watkins alter Williams C & W." (2) "Thomas Gwyn, gent., W.I.T.T.C.W. 1675 D.W.R.W." (3) "D.U.G.R.I.D. I.D.V.R.R.T.R."

The 1874 restoration cost £750, and it was raised by a public subscription. When Bishop Thirwall died, the Rev. Canon Basil Jones, D.D., was appointed to succeed him, and this church was the first re-opened by him after his consecration as bishop. He attended the ceremony with befitting dignity, and was met at the entrance to the churchyard by a large number of his clergy, and the white-robed choir-boys of the church of St. John's, Brecknock. The service was attended by large congregations from Garthbreny and neighbouring parishes, and the Bishop preached in the morning. The afternoon service was made memorable by a remarkable sermon preached by the Rev. D. Parker Morgan, a young clergyman whose family was of the adjoining farm Pantycorred. This gentleman, later, went out to America, where he soon acquired great distinction as a preacher, received the degree of D.D., and became Rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Fifth Avenue, New York. His brother, James Morgan, Esq., J.P., became manager of Lloyds Bank, Brecon.

The church is the only public place of worship in the parish. There is a handsome vicarage house, built by subscription in 1884.

The parish is purely agricultural, there being no resident country squires. The people speak both English and Welsh; by old people Welsh is preferred, but the children use English entirely. In the north of the parish is a farm called Court yr Abad (the Abbot's Court), and a mile eastward is a small village with old ruins called Court bach (the tithe court)—the name relics of a time when possibly the Abbot acted as local magistrate. Pantycorred farm house has a stone in a wall of one of its out buildings, inscribed "1775, I.G. MAXIMUS MAJOR MINIMUS."

On August 27, 1842, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners granted to Garthbreny an annual payment of £3 augmentation from Queen Anne's Bounty; 1740, by Lot, £200; 1767, by Lot, £200;



1810, Parliamentary grant, £200 ; 1825, by Lot, £200 ; 1826, by Lot, £200. The value of the living was in 1895, £110 (of this £87, with four acres of glebe), but it was returned as being worth, with Llanfihangel-fechan, the net sum of £190 in 1905.

Garthbrengy is in the Brecknock Poor Law Union. Its population is about 150, which is double that of 1800. There is an acreage of 2,001, and the rateable value is £1,320. The parish is in the petty sessional division of Merthyr, the polling district of Lower Chapel, and the Electoral division of Battle.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1234.—Milo was <i>rector</i> of this parish			1739.—Mrs. Margaret Gwyn.		Morgan Powel, curate.
1397.—John Fairford, Prebendary.			1740.—The bishop of Saint David's.		Walter Williams, curate.
1487.—Bishop of Saint David's		Richard Langeshaw, prebendary.	1766.—		Thomas Lewis, curate.
1637.—		Evan Price, curate. <sup>1</sup>	1778.—David Griffiths, prebendary.		Samuel Evans, curate.
1661.—Hugh Powel, esq.		Thomas Powel, curate.	1812.—Bishop of St. David's		*Samuel Evans.
1662.—The bishop of Saint David's.		Thomas Parget, A.M. prebendary.	1826.—		Thomas Price.
		Walter Jones, curate.	1834.—		*David Price, per. pet. curate.
1688.—		John Rice, curate.	1860.—		Roger Williams, curate.
1719.—		Lewis Morgan, curate.	1867.—		William Howells, vicar.
1730.—		Jenkin Williams, curate.	1904.—		Alfred Edward Evans, vicar.

The Patronage was in 1905 returned as being in the hands of the Bishop of St. David's and the Rector of Llandefaelog-fach.

LLANDEVAILLOG, or LLANDEFAILLOG FACH.

THIS church, according to Ecton, is dedicated to Saint Tyfailog: no such name appears in the British calendar; the holy man to whose memory it is consecrated, was Maelog,<sup>2</sup> who however is not known to English martyrologists. He was of royal extraction, being a younger son of Caw, the son of Cawdraſ ap Cradoc Fraich-fras, prince of Brecknock, in the beginning of the sixth century, and it is by no means improbable that this tract as well as Llandefalle, which is probably a corruption of Llanmaclog, or Llan y Faelog, formed part of his patrimony. The mutation of the initial letter *m* into *f* or *v*, is according to a rule well known in Welsh orthography, and the phrase of *y Faelog*, or *the Faelog*, corrupted into Llandevaillog fach, or the lesser, is frequently heard in common conversation. That Llandefalle was the greater Saint Maelog's, is confirmed by a very old MS. which fell into our hands some years back, in which the arms and an inscription commemorating the conquest of part of this country by de Bois, one of Bernard Newmarch's knights, were said to be placed on the south wall of *Llandevaillog* church; whereas the quaint lines hereafter noticed which are no longer visible, were unquestionably placed in the wall of Llandevallc church, where the property of the family of de Bois lay. Besides if Llandevaillog took its name of the little or the lesser, as some have thought, to distinguish it from another parish of the same name in this county, it would be an egregious blunder, as Llandevaillog tre'r graig does not comprehend an extent of ground equal to one half of the former, which is placed by Adams in latitude 52 3, longitude 3 22, but perhaps 3 21 would be more correct: it is upon the bank of the Honddu, two miles on the road from Brecon to Builth, to which the churchyard adjoins.

THE CHURCH AND ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

The church, like most other religious edifices in this county, is barn roofed and unceiled; it seems formerly to have been of greater height than it is at present, as part of the stairs ascending

<sup>1</sup> During the time of the civil war, in the time of Charles the First, Walker, in his *Sufferings of the Clergy*, tells us this curacy was vacant for several years.  
<sup>2</sup> *Boneddy Sant, Myf. Arch.* vol. II. (Owen's Biography). Three other churches are dedicated to this Saint, Llanvaelog Anglesea, Llandevaillog near Carmarthen, and Llandevaillog tre'r graig in Brecknockshire.



to the rood loft, still remain, which are considerably higher than the pulpit; it consists of nave only, with a tower at the west end, in which are four bells; it is but indifferently paved, the stones being broken and loose in several places, the pews are decayed and not perfectly regular. Under and near the communion table are several gravestones to the memory of the Powels of Castlemadoc, particularly of Master William Powel, eldest son of Hugh Powel, who died 9th February 1673. Another, "Here lyeth the body of William Powel of Castlemadoc, gent., who married Anne, daughter to Rees Kemis to Llanvair is coed, esq., they had issue nine children, living seven, viz. Hugh, Elizabeth, Margaret, Bridget, Anne, and Joan, he died 28th March 1687." And on a third, "Here lyeth the bodies of Thomas Powel and Griffith Powel, both sons to William Powel of Castlemadoc, esq., this Thomas married first *Rowland* daughter to Lewis Gwyn of Bishop's Castle, no issue; secondly, he married Jane, daughter to William ap Jeuan Jenkin of Troestre, no issue; he died 14th May 1518." Neither of these inscriptions are now legible, the stones being broken and defaced. On the north wall is a marble monument erected in 1793 which professes to *perpetuate* the memory of several of the family of Prytherch of this place, whose names are already nearly forgotten, and though this frail memento erected at the desire of one of the last of them, may preserve the dates of their births and deaths for a few years, if it should escape accidents, all that the next century will learn, is that such persons *have been*; that William Prytherch of Llandevaillog, esq., died April 18, 1776, aged 73, Mary his wife, November 18, 1768, aged 63, William his son, December 3, 1772, aged 45, Margaret Prytherch their daughter, September 22, 1785, aged 51, and Sarah Prytherch their daughter, February 8th, 1793, aged 65. Above the inscription in a shield are their arms, consisting of sixteen quarterings, most of which a Breconshire herald will recognise, though most erroneously blazoned; they are 1 argent, a wolf saliant proper, 2 the field as 1, a buck tripping proper, 3 as 1, three bulls' heads cabossed sable, 4 azure, 3 lions rampant, *Or*, 5 sable, a chevron between three spear's heads argent, 6 argent, a Wyverne's head, vert bearing a bloody hand, 7 gules, a chevron ermine, 8 argent, 3 cocks gules, 9 sable, a chevron between three fleurs de lis argent, 10 sable, three chevrons, *Or*, 11 sable, 3 fleurs de lis argent, 12 gules, a fess between two swords in pale, the points up and down, *Or*, 13 argent, a lion rampant, gules, 14 azure within a bordure argent, a lion rampant, regardant *Or*, 15 azure, a lion rampant, regardant argent, 16 gules, a bull's head cabossed, argent, between three besants, crest on a wreath, argent and gules, a wolf passant proper.

There is no table of charitable donations in this church, nor can we learn that any sums have been given for the support of the poor of this parish, except £10 per annum bequeathed by the late Miss Sarah Prytherch for that purpose, charged upon a tenement called Peytyn Glâs, and paid by Thomas Price of Builth, esq., to whom she devised the principal part of her property.

#### THE MISSING CATTWG STONE.

On a stone which forms the threshold entering this church, are the following letters rudely sculptured C A T V C; from whence it was brought or when it was placed in its present situation is uncertain, but it has been evidently removed and has been laid, as it should seem, to accommodate the building, though how Cadocus or Cattwg was connected with this parish does not appear. Adjoining the wall of the steeple of this church, in an horizontal position, is another relic<sup>1</sup> of early days, which we fear will continue to puzzle antiquaries to the end of time. This stone, copied with great accuracy by Gough in his edition of Camden's *Britannia*, has been called Roman, British, and Saxon; certainly the interlacing wreaths have a strong resemblance to the works of the latter, but though tradition has placed it on the grave of Brochwel Yscythrog, if the legend in the Cottonian Library, called Cognacio Brychan, preserved in the appendix, be correct, we think it more likely that it is the place of interment of Rhain or Drem Dremrhudd, one of the sons of Brychan Brecheiniog. It is two yards and a half in length, and in breadth four feet three quarters at the middle, where it is broadest; the inscription upon it we shall not attempt to decypher, for though the characters have *something* of the appearance of the Saxon, that language will not assist us either in reading or explaining them.

#### THE CHAPEL OF EASE.

To this church belongs a chapel of ease, probably erected at first, as it has been rebuilt of late, principally at the expense of one of the Powels of Castlemadoc; this also is situated upon the road side to Builth, about three miles northward of Llandevaillog, and is called Llanvihangel fechan, St. Michael's the lesser,<sup>2</sup> to distinguish it from Llanvihangel nant brân in the neighbourhood. It has been augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty and the rector of Llandevaillog nominates to the curacy, but there is nothing here deserving of notice, unless it should be thought necessary to state that the chapel is a light neat ceiled structure, the floor well flagged, the seats regularly arranged, and

<sup>1</sup> See plate VI. figure I.

<sup>2</sup> And sometimes the Lower Chapel.



surrounded by a walled cemetery, within which are interred the late Charles Powel of Castlemadoc and his only surviving daughter Catherine Powel, with whom the name in this respectable family became extinct.<sup>1</sup>

The same mortifying instance of the vicissitudes, the changes, and chances of this life will occur, and the same humiliating lesson continue to wound the feelings of the genealogist, when he views the fate of the two other houses formerly of repute within this parish.

#### GWENFFRWD AND THE GWYNS.

“Gwenffrwd” or “Waun y ffrwd,” means the white torrent or the meadow of the torrent. Which ever way it is written, it is by no means descriptive of the situation of this mansion, now a farm house; a little rill it is true runs near it, but has no pretensions to the appellation of a cataract, which *ffrwd* imports, and even if it be dignified with the name of stream, it has not that rapidity of current which the word in another sense conveys. Thus, however, has this house been immemorially denominated: it is situated upon the boundary line of the parishes of St. John the Evangelist and Llandevaillog, by which the farm is intersected. It continued in the possession of the descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch for several centuries, the younger branches of the house of Gaer being frequently owners and occupiers of Gwenffrwd. In 1542 and 1560, Lewis Gwyn, esq., high sheriff of the county, is described as resident here; whether he was one of the above family, or of a new *dinasty*,<sup>2</sup> we know not, but we are inclined to think that Gwyn was only descriptive of his fair complexion and assumed as a surname, as was frequently done in those days, and that his children (if he had any) for once deviated from their usage, as before stated, by reverting to the custom of their ancestors in common cases, in taking the christian name of the father, preceded by an *ap*; for we find no family of Gwyns afterwards settled here. On the contrary, in 1585, Thomas Powel ap John was of Gwenffrwd, and died in that year; by his will of this date he devises this his capital mansion, in as large and ample a manner as he received it from his father Howel ap John, to his eldest son *Lewis* Thomas, in fee, so that here some recollection of the sheriff of Breconshire seems to remain in the family, though if these were his lineal descendants, he must have been the great grandfather of the testator, Thomas Powel ap John.<sup>3</sup> This man had very large territorial possessions, as well as a considerable personal estate, which he divided among his children, to whom he appoints Richard Price of the Priory of Brecon, esq., David Williams, esq. (afterwards Sir David Williams), the judge who is buried at the Priory, and others, to be guardians, and directs that four of his tenants should pay them their rent, their cheeses, and their capons annually, for their trouble during his eldest son’s minority.

#### SIR LEWIS GWYN’S WILL.

It is not a little extraordinary, that though the name of Gwyn appears at Gwenffrwd, and vanishes thus suddenly, both Christian and surname occur again in a few years in this parish, though it is doubtful whether there was any relationship or affinity whatsoever between the two persons. Sir Lewis Gwyn, who styles himself parson of Llandevaillog and vicar of Nantmel in 1584, was of Bishop’s Castle, his daughter, as has been seen, married Thomas, son of William Powel, of Castlemadoc, by whom she had no issue; by his will he bequeaths his books to his nephews, Sir Griffith Gwyn, who succeeded him as vicar of Nantmel, and to Sir Robert Lloyd ap Wyn, to be divided among them on condition they each enter into a bond of 20*l.* to Griffith Lloyd ap John Wyn, not to sell or lend anyone them for four years next after the testator’s death; “and yf (says he) in fflowr yeares they fynd not comoditie, use and pleasure in them, then, and note before, they maye bestowe them as they shall think good.” He gives to his brother Thomas ap John Wyn various articles of household furniture, and one of his best horses, “after my lord bushoppe of St. David’s have had choice of his mortuary,” he also gives to his brother Griffith Gwyn all debts due to him from William Powel and others, for the tythes of the parsonage of Llandevaillog, “to Alban Stepney, esq., his ring of gold, wishing it were better worthe for him,” and to his brother and nephew several estates in Radnorshire,<sup>4</sup> but no mention is made of Gwenffrwd or any other lands in this parish, so that this mansion house and desmesne probably continued in the possession of the descendants of Thomas Powel John, until by purchase or intermarriage it came to the Lewises of Pennant, from whom it

<sup>1</sup> A marble monument has been lately erected here to Mr. Charles Powel’s memory, under the will of his daughter, and another in the Priory Church, by which it appears, he died May 24, 1796, aged 84.

<sup>2</sup> The English reader will hardly believe that *dinasty* is a Welsh word without the alteration of a single letter, and has precisely the same meaning as the English.

<sup>3</sup> It is not unlikely that Lewis Gwyn may have left an only daughter and heiress who married Howel John Prosser of Gaer.

<sup>4</sup> He was archdeacon of Caerdigan in 1571, according to Brown Willis, who supposes he died in 1586; from a codicil to his will in 1588, it appears he lived at least 2 years longer.



descended to the late Mr. Owen Evans of that place, who mortgaged it, among his other lands, to Michael Cope Hopton, esq., the proprietor in 1800.

## THE PRYDDERCH FAMILY.

The family of Prydderch, late of this parish, are descended from Rhydderch ap Gwilym of the line of Cradoc ap Gwilym, lord of Tallyn; instead thereof of the wolf saliant, the arms of Tydwâl glôff, lord of Caerdigan, to which they have no pretensions, they should bear azure, a stag tripping attired and unguled, and bearing a royal crown between his horns, *Or*, which were intended by the second quartering in the monument, though wrongly blazoned. The first we find who endeavoured to *perpetuate* the surname of Prydderch, and who settled in a mansion about one hundred yards from the church, on the road to Brecon, was William Prydderch, who died in 1614, leaving issue Lewis and a daughter. Lewis Prydderch was in the law, and like his neighbour, Gwyn of Pant y cored, a violent presbyterian and republican: in the beginning of the civil wars, in the time of Charles the First, he acted sometimes as deputy and sometimes as principal registrar of the archdeaconry of Brecon during part of that boisterous period, and died in 1643, having by his will bequeathed, among other things, to three of his servants, the following articles, to one, "a russet shurte with silk points," to another, "two falling bands and a deulas shurte," and to the third, "a little sun diale set in bone." He left issue William, who died single, David, and two daughters. David married and had issue William Prydderch, who married Mary Price of Llangynidr (of the family of Prices, now of Fforddlas in Talgarth parish), Gwenllian, who married David Evans of Gwaravog, father of the late Samuel Evans of that place, Rachael, who died single, and Margaret, who married Jeffrey Jones of Bwysfa, one of the Bailie family, in Llywel; David, William, Sarah, Margaret and Anne, the latter of whom married Jonathan Dixon; the children of the above named William by Mary Price, all died without issue. Sarah Prydderch, who died in 1793, having the power of disposal of this property, gave the principal part of it to Thomas Price, of Builth, esq., grandson of her aunt, Gwenllian, and son of her cousin, Rachael, the wife of Mr. Richard Price of Rhosforloe in Llanfechan, in the hundred of Builth.

## THE POWELS OF CASTLE MADOC.

The only family in this parish, now remaining to be noticed, are the Powels, late of Castlemadoc; which should be written, either in English or Welsh, Madoc's Castle or Castell Madoc: it was so called either from Madoc, the third brother of Bleddin ap Maenarch, or from Madoc, third son of David ap Rhys y ddimau; we are rather inclined to think from the latter, as the former settled at or near Edwinsford in Caermarthenshire. The issue of Madoc ap Rhys y ddimau failed in the male line in the third generation, when it went probably to one of the descendants of the elder branch of the family of Bleddin, with whom it continued until the marriage of Watkin Vaughan, grandson of Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower, with Joan, daughter of Evan ap Gwilym fychan ap &c. ap &c. One of their daughters, Margaret, married Thomas Powel, who built the present house in 1588; before this time it was a castellated mansion with a keep for prisoners upon an elevated artificial mound, the latter of which still remains adjoining the farm yard. Before the time of Thomas Powel, this family were of Argoed in Talachddu, and Howel the father of Thomas Powel is so described in most MSS. but in one, in the British Museum, he is called Howel Gwilym of Brecon, esq. William Powel of Castlemadoc is said by Owen, in his *Cambrian Biography*, to have been a poet, and to have flourish between 1580 and 1620; if so, this must have been William, the eldest son and heir of Thomas Powel, but we have unfortunately never read or heard of any of his works: his descendants continued to reside here for the three or four last generations, and were in the habit of ringing the changes of Hugh Powel, Charles Powel, and Hugh Powel and Charles Powel, until the year 1796, when the last Charles died about the age of eighty-four, leaving issue three children, who all died single. Catharine, his daughter, survived her brother and sister, and devised the property, charged with annuities, to the Reverend Hugh Price, son of her aunt, Penelope, the wife of Roger Price of Maes yr Onn, for his life, and afterwards to his son, Mr. Hugh Price, a student in the university of Oxford, for his life, with several remainders over, not necessary to be stated in a work of this kind. The distinguishing characteristic of this family, for several generations, has been that of plain unaffected country gentlemen, hospitable to strangers, neighbours, and friends, and charitable to the poor, but the last Charles Powel was a man of more than common talents, improved by an intercourse and correspondence with several of the learned of his day, and by great reading and much experience during the progress of a long life. His daughter, Catherine, erected a cenotaph in the northern cross aisle of the cathedral at Hereford, to the memory of her grandfather and great grandmother (for we do not believe either of them were buried there) on which is the following inscription,

H. S. E.

Hugo Powel, De Castello-Madoc In agro Radnoriensi armiger Nec non Elizabetha mater ejus Filia Georgii Gwynne de Llanelweth In Agro Radnoriensi armigeri Hæc obiit April 4, 1729, ætat 73, Ille 18 August 1749, æt 66.

Arms, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, the field azure, 2 Brychan, 3 Elystan Glodrydd, 4 as 1, crest Rhys Goch, the Wyverne's head argent.

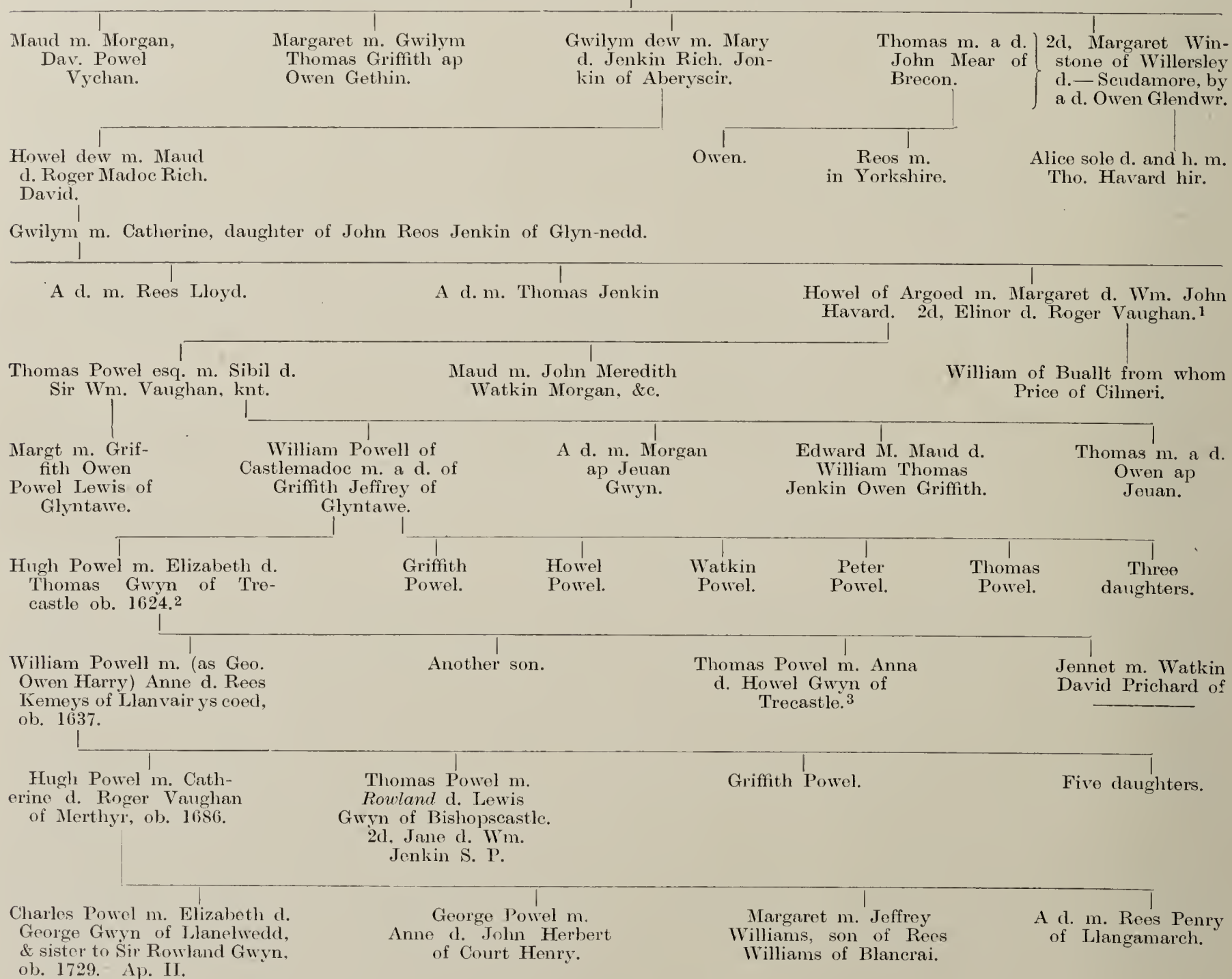


The late Mr. Powell bore his paternal arms properly blazoned, except that the points of the spears' heads, whether by design or by accident, we know not, were *gutte de sange*, instead of being imbrued; this difference would pass unnoticed by an inattentive observer, but a herald of the seventeenth century would have loudly inveighed against this innovation, as being more appropriate to a surgeon or a sempstress who had pricked her finger with a needle, than to a warrior who had fleshed his weapon in the body of his adversary.

## I.

## POWEL OF CASTLEMADOC.

The same as Gamos to Howel, eldest brother of Sir D. Gam, who married Margaret, daughter to Gwil Phil. Tho. ap Elydr.

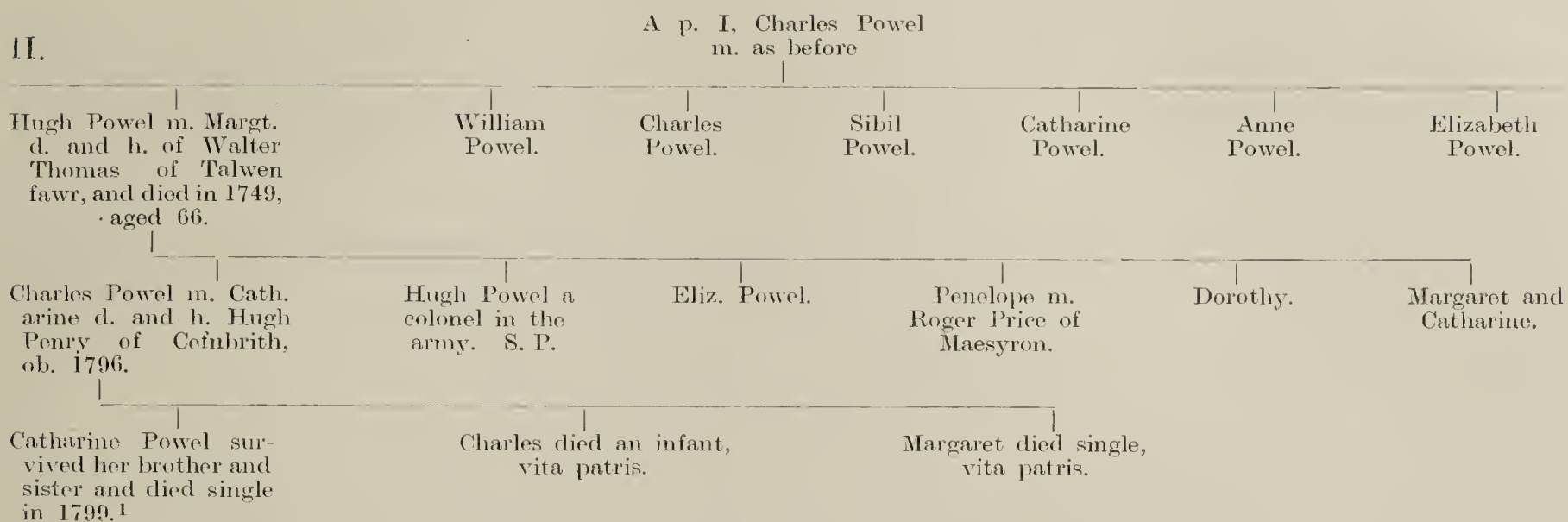


<sup>1</sup> In another pedigree, in the British Museum, he is described as Howel Gwilym of Brecon, esq. His eldest son Thomas married Margaret, daughter of Watkin Vaughan of Merthyr; but it does not appear he had any issue by her.

<sup>2</sup> All the pedigrees agree in calling the wife of this Hugh Powel Elizabeth, but it is singular that Elizabeth, the widow of William Powel who died in 1637, by her will gives her daughter in law Anne Gwynne, "her biggest brasse panne and her best gowne."

<sup>3</sup> This Thomas Powel left one daughter, Mary, married to Captain Thomas Price of Devynock.





## CONTINUATION OF POWELL-POWEL OF CASTLE MADOC PEDIGREE.

PENELOPE POWEL, dau. of Hugh Powel, of Castle Madoc, married ROGER PRICE, of Maesyron, Llangammarch, and had issue,

1. Roger of Maesyron, capt. in the army, died unmarried in 1805, buried at Llandevaelog.
2. HUGH of Castlemadoc, M.A. Oxon, in Holy Orders, died Rector of Retterdon and Little Ilford, Essex, 1803, buried at Llandefaelog Churchyard; for many years held preferment in Gloucestershire, where he enjoyed the friendship of the celebrated Bishop Wachtoun, married Sarah dau. of — Turner, of King Stanley, Glos., leaving issue,—(besides one son Charles who died unm., 4 daus. who died unm. and one dau. Elizabeth who married R. Hughes of Cheltenham and d.s.p.)—
  1. HUGH of Castle Madoc, *m* Sophia, youngest dau. of Francis Brodie; she died 1845; he died 1856 (both buried in Llanfihangel fechan Churchyard). They had issue,
    1. Charles Powell, died 1830.
    2. HUGH POWELL, born 1822 (assumed the name of Powel 1875), *m*. 1845 Maria Alicia youngest dau. of David Thomas of Welfield, Radnorshire; she died 1880; married 2ndly Selina second dau. of the late Thomas Frewen of Birkwell, Sussex, formerly M.P. for So. Leicestershire, and widow of Charles Vickers, of Wormstall, Berks, Esq. By the first marriage, Mr. Powell-Powel had issue,
      1. HUGH PENRY POWEL, born 1853, married 1884 Margaret Grizel, youngest dau. of Basil Cochrane, Esq., and has issue,
        1. Hugh Evan Price, born 1887.
        2. Eleanor Mary, born 1890.
        3. Charles Vaughan, born 1894.
        4. Dorothy Grizel, born 1897.
      2. Annette Powel, born 1848, died 1873.
    3. Grace Powel, died unmarried 1829.
    4. Elinor Powel, died unmarried, at Ventnor 1849.

Penelope and her husband Roger Price of Maesyron died *circa* 1800. They were buried in Llangammarch Church where their names and date of death are recorded on tablets. They left three sons and some daughters, who all died *s.p.*, except the second son, the Rev. Hugh Price, M.A., Oxon, Rector of Retterdon and Little Ilford, Essex, who inherited Castle Madoc on the death of his cousin Catharine Powel in 1798. He left an only son Hugh Price, who succeeded to Castle Madoc. Hugh Price was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant for the County of Brecknock, and served the office of High Sheriff in 1815. He entered the army and served with his regiment, the 11th Light Dragoons (now Hussars), in the Peninsular War; was present at the battle of Salamanca and other engagements, receiving a medal with two clasps. His name is honorably mentioned with the 11th Hussars, having been thanked by General Ponsonby for conspicuous courage during the retreat from Burgos; by the check he then gave to the French he saved possible catastrophe. This short record is due to the memory of a man of modest character, who would never allude to his own military deeds. He married in 1818 Sophia, daughter of Francis Brodie, barrister at law; she died in 1845. Hugh Price died in 1856, leaving one son and two daughters. The son Hugh Powel Price (see pedigree) of Castle Madoc (born 1822) resumed the name of Powel, and became known as Powel-Powel of Castle Madoc. He died on Sunday, May 26, 1907, at the age of 85, and was buried at St. Michael's, Lower Chapel. (*See List of High Sheriffs.*) His second wife died a year later and was buried in the same place.

Castlemadoc is situate on the northern extremity of Llandevaillog, on the boundary of Merthyr Cynog, and, like Gwenffrwd, part of the farm is in one and part in the other parish. On the western part of Llandevaillog near the commencement of its southern boundary, and from thence in a line to the north is a common or waste land, near which is a tenement called Sarnau, from whence as well as from the appearance of the ground, we conjecture that the Sarn Helen pursued its course from Gaer to Cwm in Llanyrc along this ridge, entering the parish of Merthyr Cynog, leaving the summit of the mountain as it rises, and the Vale of Honddu to the right hand, or the east, and so

<sup>1</sup> She left the principal part of her property to her cousin Hugh Price, clerk, eldest son of her aunt Penelope, by Roger Price, and after his death, to his son Hugh Price, the present (1809) proprietor of Castlemadoc.



on in a direction nearly from north to south until it crossed the river and the road from Brecon to Maes y genffordd, about one mile beyond the Upper Chapel, where we think its remains are still visible, running in a straight line towards Maesmynis. But to return to Llandevaillog, the soil, while it continues west of Honddu, is chiefly covered by underwood or laid down in arable, when it is interrupted by Merthyr, which crosses the river near Castlemadoc; some good meadows appear on its bank.

The advowson of the rectory was formerly in the lords of Brecon; upon the attainder of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, it vested in the Crown: the parsonage house, which is situated near the church, has a glebe of about thirty acres attached to it. Value in Pope Nicholas's taxation 8*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, tenths 16*s.* Charge in the king's books £13 0*s.* 6*d.*, tenths, £1 6*s.* Procurations to the archdeacon of Brecon annually 7*s.* 5*d.* The parish register book commences in 1715.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

The church was rebuilt in the year 1831, of stone raised on the glebe land, and given for that purpose by the Rector. This erection cost a little more than £200, raised by subscription, and aided by a sum of £60 from the Society for the Erection and Enlargement of Churches, in consideration of 55 out of 150 sittings being declared free. This building contained a nave and chancel, having a boarded floor, raised on dwarf walls, and was fitted up with every regard for comfort. There was a neat porch, and the old tower, a rude edifice of much more recent date than the ancient church, was allowed to remain in its original state. But notwithstanding this restoration of 1831, we find the church a few years later described as being "dark, damp, and greatly dilapidated," and probably was allowed to remain in this state until 1878-90, when it was restored by private subscriptions at a cost of £1,877 12*s.* 10*d.* The church was re-seated in oak in 1894, with a dado of ceramic mosaic above the seats, and the floor was laid with oak blocks. The porch was also rebuilt from the foundations, and covered with an oak roof; the tower was repaired and re-pointed. The bells, five in number, were re-cast, and a sixth added; the whole cost was £563, and this was raised by subscription. The inscriptions read: No. 1, "1898, William Williams, rector. Once a peal of five—Henceforth we six shall be—In Joy and Sorrow—Ever in sympathy." No. 2, "A.D. 1718. Hugh Powell, church warden. Re-cast A.D. 1889, John Douglas Dickinson; David Prothero, churchwardens." No. 3, "1718. Henry Thomas, rector." No. 4, "1718. Thomas Williams, gent, churchwarden." Nos. 5 and 6: These two bells are evidently of earlier date, and the inscriptions are so obliterated that they cannot be deciphered.

There is an east window of stained glass, and a screen divides the chancel from the nave; this is to the memory of Elizabeth Lewis-Lloyd. The lectern is of brass, and there is a marble pulpit. The reredos is of marble, and the chancel floor is laid with mosaic. A west window of stained glass was put in to the memory of the Rev. Prebendary William Williams, R.D., and the inscription declares that it was "dedicated as a lasting expression of their loss by his parishioners and friends by whom he was beloved and greatly mourned. He died January 2nd, 1902."

On the walls of the church inside are several slabs, bearing inscriptions. The first noticed reads, "This simple tablet is erected to remind those near and dear, in some silent hour, of Penoyre Watkins, Esq., a good and a great man, who lived from 1721 to 1792, known and respected in this his native country. Of Pen'awr his grandson, who died in 1812, at 17, before succeeding years had made him what his superior talents and learning so amply justified. And finally of Julia Sarah, the youngest child of the Rev. Thomas and S. E. Watkins of Penoyre; this fair creature, most dear to her parents, and her surviving brothers and sisters, was both in person and disposition the delight of all. Oh, Reader! imagine then the loss. She was unexpectedly removed, as a pure and spotless spirit, to a better world at the early age of 12, on the 8th September, 1818."

Adjoining this is the Prytherch slab already referred to, and it only remains to add in regard to this that it was erected pursuant to the will of Sarah Prytherch by her executor Thomas Price, gent, in May 1793. The bodies of this family, we learn from the monument, were interred in the chancel; and from a brass plate we find that "By an indenture enrolled in chancery on the 25th October, 1787, Sarah Prytherch of Llandefaelog House, charged the lands of Pytinglas with the sum of ten pounds yearly to be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish and to be distributed by them among such poor persons of this parish not receiving parish relief as the owner of Llandefaelog estate for the time being may appoint." This charity is still being faithfully applied.

The church also contains the Castle Madoc memorials referred to by Jones.

#### THE CHURCHYARD, AND FAMILY VAULTS.

The lych-gate at the main entrance to the churchyard was erected in 1897, from designs by Mr. F. R. Kempson, of Hereford, by Mr. John Griffiths, builder, of Brecon, at the expense of William



Powell, gent., of the Struet House, Brecon, and a slab let into the wall bears this inscription: "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Edward Powell, born 21 December, 1858, died 5 October, 1894." This was Mr. Powell's only son, and he came to his death by an accident on the Llandovery Road near to Cefn Parc, where he died; he was for many years cashier and subsequently accountant at the Brecon Branch of the National Provincial Bank, and with his father held some property in the district; the whole family lie buried in the churchyard.

There are two family vaults here. The first in size is that of the Penoyre Watkins family. It is a large square building, surrounded by a high wall, and the whole presents at this period a desolate appearance, being overgrown with trees; some distant kinsfolk of this family are still living, but have long left the county, and the property has passed into the hands of strangers. Over the door entering the mausoleum are carved these words "WE DIED TO LIVE FOR EVER." The coffins are placed to rest on strong iron trestles above the ground. A reference to the monumental inscriptions in our account of the Brecon Priory will give particulars of the persons buried here, the last being Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, lord lieutenant for the county, and for some time M.P. for the borough; as he was at the head of the county military organisation the occasion of his funeral was one of considerable pomp and ceremony, and was attended by a large body of the Militia and Volunteers, together with many county and borough citizens.

The other vault is the burying place of the Dickinsons of Glanhonddu; and above this is a tall and chaste cross upon which are several carved figures. The inscriptions on this read: "Sacred to the Memory of John Jones, esquire, of Glanhonddu, in this parish, chairman of Quarter Sessions for the County of Brecknock during a period of seventeen years. This is crected by his sorrowing widow and surviving family. He died on the 4th August, 1847, in his 71st year." Catherine Jones, his widow, died October 9, 1862, aged 62. And by the next inscription we note the transfer of the property to the Dickinsons, "Catherine Mary Dickinson, only child of John Jones, Esq., of Glanhonddu, died 8 March, 1863, aged 45." Hereafter we find only the Dickinsons buried here, viz., Frank, eldest and beloved child of Douglas and Catherine Mary Dickinson, born July 25, 1846, died April 17, 1847. Edith Dickinson, born April 25, 1852, died Jan. 10, 1861. Louisa Dickinson, born Jan. 26, 1859, died April 3, 1861. Douglas John Dickinson, J.P., D.L., Colonel Royal Brecknock Rifles, died March 23, 1865, aged 47. Mary Emily Dickinson, born Dec. 18, 1851, died Dec. 26, 1868. John Douglas Dickinson, Esq., J.P., 24th Regiment, died Dec. 14, 1900, aged 51. He inherited the property after his father the Colonel; it descended to his son, who, in less than two years, as the following inscription testifies, followed him to the tomb, "Douglas John Dickinson, South Wales Borderers, eldest son of John Douglas Dickinson of Glanhonddu, born Jan. 2, 1878, died Oct. 7, 1902." The estate was then inherited by the second son, who likewise followed the profession of a soldier.

#### OTHER MEMORIALS.

Near to the Penoyre vault, and beneath one of the fine yew trees, is a massive granite monument to the memory of Prebendary Williams, the late Rector for 30 years, and who died 1902 aged 76, and also of his wife Elizabeth, who died Nov. 1906, aged 75; she was a daughter of Thomas Lewis Lloyd of Nantgwilt, Esq. Facing the entrance to the church is a box tomb to the memory of the Rev. Hugh Price, M.A., of Castle Madoc in this parish and Rector of Retterdon and Little Ilford, Essex, who died 13th June 1805, aged 66 years; and to Roger Price of Maesyronen in this county, who died March 15, 1805, aged 68.

The Morgans of Pantycorred have many memorials here. Among them, Anne, wife of William Morgan, junr, of Pantycorred, in the parish of Garthbrengy, died Nov. 28, 1869, in her 31st year. Rees Morgan, their son, died 1860, and Margaret Anne their daughter, who died 1862. William Morgan, of Pantycorred, died Dec. 31, 1853, aged 65; Margaret his relict died Nov. 12, 1877, aged 71. John Morgan, son of William Morgan, died Jan. 5, 1859, aged 19.

There is a stone in memory of "Francis Malet, Esq., born at Cork, 1797, died at Glanhonddu Sept. 11, 1864," and also one to "Ellen Georgina Harries, born Nov. 10, 1856, died Sept. 22, 1857"—a daughter of a former rector. The Davieses of Tynllwyn, and of Pannau, Llanfrynach, and also of the Coed, bury here; and several other farmers of the district. There is a stone to Harriett, wife of W. Dalton, Esq., who died at Brecon, 8 June, 1857, aged 61, and also of Harriett Martha daughter of the above, who died Nov. 15th, 1888. Lying loose, near the Penoyre vault is a stone to John Bowcott and Elizabeth his wife, of this parish; he died Feb. 6, 1795.

#### WESTWOOD'S DESCRIPTION OF THE ANCIENT STONES.

The old stone which in Jones' time he described as being fixed against the wall of the steeple is now built into the west wall at the entrance to the Penoyre vault, and, in consequence of the



expansion of the wall, through the growth of trees, is in some danger of being damaged. It may be well to quote the description of this stone given by Mr. J. O. Westward, M.A., F.L.S., who writes: "Llandfaelog stone is one of the most interesting of the early sepulchral incised slabs in Wales. About 7 feet long, by rather more than one foot wide . . . it may be described as consisting of four several compartments, (1) the top of the stone, being occupied by an incised ornamental cross, followed by (2) the figure of a warrior, whose right shoulder has been cut away with a portion of the stone, the figure being surrounded by interlaced ribbon-patterns, (3) a square space bearing an inscription preceded by a cross, and (4) an oblong space with a double interlaced ribbon-pattern, of which I believe the lower part is cut away. Being bedded into the wall I cannot state the thickness of the stone, and cannot consequently judge whether it could ever have stood upright, or was originally intended to be laid flat on the ground, on fixed upright, as now, in a wall. With the exception of the space containing the inscription, the letters of which are incised, the surface of the whole stone is sunk, leaving the ornamental pattern and figure in relief. The incisions forming the design are but of moderate depth, and it is therefore really surprising how well, in so exposed a situation, it has been preserved, notwithstanding the action of the elements for at least a thousand years. The cross at the top of the stone is of calvary form, formed of two parallel raised bands, interlaced at the junction of the limbs, the ends of the limbs forming dilated triangular knots, the basal knots being increased in size to give greater apparent support by the band being doubled. The spaces within the angles formed by the arms of the cross are filled in with interlaced ribbons, which are either doubled or trebled; the middle band of the lower left hand space appears to have been left entire, instead of being trebled by incision, like the other ribbons in that part of the design. The warrior in the next compartment is as rude an attempt at delineation as could well be imagined. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, with a most ill-shaped head, and disproportionately large left shoulder and small legs. There is no attempt at rounding the limbs, the surface of the stone being left flat, and the parts indicated only by incised lines. In his right hand he bears a thick straight weapon resting on his right shoulder, but of which the upper end has been cut away; in his left hand he also bears a short weapon, slenderer than the other, and which is evidently extended into the ribbon pattern at his left side. The pattern on the right side of the stone, at the side of the head, is a double interlaced ribbon, which is not quite regular in its lower part; the ornament on the lower part of the compartment to the right of the figure is a modification of the Z-pattern, which bears so great a resemblance to Chinese work. The left-hand side of the figure is occupied with a single interlaced ribbon-pattern, in which independent circles have been introduced to fill up the design. The square space below the figure is surrounded by a narrow cable-like moulding, the upper line being bent upwards, following the position of the feet. The inscription consists of two lines of letters, which are to be read—

+ briamail  
Flou

The bottom compartment is occupied by a bold diaper-pattern formed of double interlaced ribbons. The design is irregular at the top right-hand corner, and the bottom has apparently been cut off. The present is almost the only instance occurring in Wales of the figure of the deceased being represented on one of these early slabs, and is valuable, rude as it is, as affording some slight indication of the dress and weapon of a British warrior. It has struck me as possible that the sculptor of the stone might have been led to introduce the figure of the deceased warrior, from the circumstances of the Roman invasion in the vicinity, commonly known under the name of the Maen y Morwynion, having full-length figures of the deceased and his wife sculptured upon it."

#### THE CATTUC STONE.

The same writer, alluding to this, and which is still missing, says that in the *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, for 1862, pp. 52 and 156, there are statements, anonymously made, that the stone had been inadvertently built with the letters inwards into the arch between the nave and tower of the church.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

This parish is in the Poor Law Union of Brecknock, and its population was in 1891, 183, but it had decreased to 169 in 1901. The rateable value is £1,550, and the area 2,000 acres. It is in the Petty Sessional division of Merthyr and the Polling district of Lower Chapel, but in the Electoral division of Battle.

The language of the adult people is Welsh and English, but the children invariably use English only. The population is entirely engaged in agriculture, and there is a flour mill on the banks of the Honddu a little distance from the church.



There was a Wesleyan Chapel in the parish, but this was closed about 1886, and the ruins since removed. The Baptist Chapel was re-built on a new site by subscription in 1855; there is no endowment.

In 1871 a small inconvenient building in the churchyard, used as a school, was removed, and a new schoolroom and premises erected adjoining the teacher's residence, which had been built a few years previously. These premises were erected at a cost of £400 by the parishioners of Llandefaelog-fach and Garthbrengy, the money being raised partly by voluntary rate and partly by subscription, there is no endowment.

Overlooking the Church, on the opposite side of the road, is Llandefaelog House, now the residence of Dumaresq Thomas, Esq., a son of the late David Thomas, Esq., of Watton House, Brecon, and of Welfield (*whose pedigree see*). Glanhonddu House, the property of the Dickinson family, has been for some years, and is now, in the occupation of Arthur Chamberlain, Esq., a brother of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Secretary for the Colonies in the late Conservative and Unionist Administration. The Vicarage House is pleasantly situated on the same side of the road, and overlooks the Vale of Honddu.

The living of Llandefaelog-fach was augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty between 1751 and 1793 to the extent of £800. The value in 1905 was returned as £251 net.

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1400.—		Hugh Peynter. <sup>2</sup> Philip Buntan.	1630.—The bishop, by lapse.		Thomas Edwards. <sup>6</sup>
1493.—	{ Margaret Countess of } { Richmond and Derby. }	Jeffrey Thomas. <sup>3</sup>	1661.—The Crown.		William Prydderch.
1514.—		Thomas ap Griffith.	1694.—Crown.		William Lewis. <sup>7</sup>
1553.—The Crown.		William Lewis.	1714.—Ditto.		Henry Thomas.
1568. Ditto.		Rice Price.	1759.—Ditto.		Gregory Parry.
1612.—The Crown.		Thomas Price. <sup>4</sup>	1776.—Ditto.		John Williams. <sup>8</sup>
1621.—Ditto.		Sir Lewis Gwynne. <sup>5</sup>	1799.—Ditto.		Tho. Watkins.
1624.—Henry Vaughan, esq. <sup>1</sup>		David Waters.	1829.—The Lord Chancellor.		Thomas. Vaughan.
		Thomas Edwards.	1855.—Ditto.		Gilbert C. F. Harries.
		Lewis Thomas.	1863.—Ditto.		Thomas Butterfield Hosken.
			1871.—Ditto.		Williams Williams.
			1902.—Ditto.		D. L. Marsden.

## LLANFIHANGEL FECHAN.

The church of Llanfihangel-fechan stands in the hamlet of the same name in the parish of Llandefaelog-fach. It was restored in 1864, partly by private subscription, with £100 borrowed on the rates and since re-paid; new choir seats and pulpit were provided in 1894, and in 1905 the roof was panelled. The church is surrounded by a walled cemetery. In the chancel are three small stained windows erected to the memory of Mary Alicia Powel, by her neices A. E. Budworth, Amy Thomas, Sister Rosamira, G. Newnham-Smith, and S. Bennett; and a brass tablet in the chancel states "The Beautifying of this Sanctuary is done as an humble offering to Almighty God by Hugh P. Powel, of Castle Madoc, in loving memory of Mary Alicia his wife, who entered into Rest on the xxxi. day of January A.D. 1880." On the east wall, facing the nave, is a marble tablet "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Eliza Anne Howell, second daughter of the Rev. W. Howell, vicar of the parish, who fell asleep Dec. 2, 1901, aged 34 years."

In a recess near the chancel, used as a vestry, are memorials to Sybil wife of Thomas Watkins of Lloegr, in this parish, who died 25th March, 1824, aged 67; to Thomas Watkins of the same

<sup>1</sup> Harry Vaughan of Meccas, esq., appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county and governor of the castle of Brecon, in the reign of Elizabeth.

<sup>2</sup> A family of this name were settled in Brecknock in 1583. Hopkin Peinctor is mentioned in the will of Thomas Lewis of that town, he is also named in the will of Rees Thomas Banor or Barwn of that place, about the same time.

<sup>3</sup> On the resignation of Philip Buntan, the date of whose presentation is uncertain.

<sup>4</sup> The same observation as the preceding.

<sup>5</sup> He was rector in 1577, and died in 1588, but when presented is uncertain.

<sup>6</sup> He is erroneously, as we apprehend, called William Edwards by Walker, in his sufferings of the clergy, who informs us that he was D.D. and that he was ousted by the propagators of the gospel in Wales, about the year 1650, and was succeeded by David William Probert, a yeoman or ploughman.

<sup>7</sup> He was domestic chaplain to Sir Edward Mansel, bart., and resided at Margam.

<sup>8</sup> He resigned the living in exchange for the vicarage of Laugharne in Carmarthenshire, where he resided.



place, esquire, who died 28th January, 1834, aged 80; to Thomas Watkins, Esq. (the 8th in direct succession), of Lloeger, who died June 25, 1859, aged 80, and to Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Evan Bevan, of Wernfawr, Talgarth, who died Oct. 25, 1854, aged 70.

In the opposite recess there are tablets "To the memory of Charles Powell, of Castle Madock, in this parish, Esq., who died 24th day of May, 1796, aged 84 years, and of Catherine Powell, spinster, his daughter, who died the 27th of September, 1798, aged 63. Their bodies are interred in the churchyard adjoining, and a tomb placed over their remains." This was "Erected pursuant to the will of the above named Catherine Powell, by her trustee and executor Jonathan Dixon, Esq." Beneath, is a small granite cross on which is inscribed "Mary Alicia Powel, January 31, 1880."

The three-light window descriptive of the adoration of the Child Christ is in memory of Mary Davies, who bequeathed funds for that purpose.

Upon a marble tablet is this inscription; "Sacred to the memory of Roger Thomas Watkins, Solicitor, Registrar of County Court, and Town Clerk of Brecon, fourth son of Thomas Watkins, of Lloegyr, in this parish, Esquire, who expired January 18, 1858, aged 46 years. The urbanity, fidelity, and success with which he discharged the duties of his public offices were generally acknowledged, while in his profession his sagacity and sound judgment were highly appreciated. Kind, humane, charitable, and possessing, in unison with a singularly gentle disposition and unobtrusive deportment, a proper sense of honour and integrity, he had attached to himself a large circle of friends. Also in memory of his brother John Watkins, surgeon, R.C.S., who died at Bombay June 30, 1836, aged 29 years." The burial ground of this family is to the left of the porch, within iron railings, and on the opposite side of the porch are buried Charles and Catherine Powel.

Near the entrance to the churchyard is the burial ground of the Castle Madoc family. The inscriptions recorded here are "In memory of Hugh Price, of Castle Madoc, Esq., who died August 29, 1856, aged 70. He was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of this county, and served with honour in the 11th Dragoons at the Battle of Salamanca, and other engagements, in the Peninsula War. Also of Sophia his wife who died May 5, 1845, aged 53." Also, "In loving memory of Annetta, the only and deeply mourned daughter of Hugh and Mary Powel Price, of Castle Madoc; she died September 23, 1873, in the 25th year of her age." And "To the beloved memory of Hugh Powell Powel, of Castle Madoc, born 28 April, 1819, died 26 May, 1907;" and to "Mary Alicia, wife of Hugh Powell Powel, of Castle Madoc, born 28 April 1819, died 31 January, 1880." Selina, second wife of H. Powel, Esq., has recently been buried here.

A monument at the west end is to the memory of John Clay of Castle Madoc farm, who died in 1841, aged 58, and of his only son John who was mortally wounded in the trenches before Sebastopol and died 29th July, 1855, aged 27. There is also one to the Rev. David Price, late incumbent of Llanfihangel-fechan, who died July, 3, 1861, aged 60, and to his wife and child.

There are several monuments to the Bevans of Lower Chapel, the Davieses of Coigen and Cimanharen-fawr, Prices of Llanthrew; Mary widow of Thomas Davies of Glannant, aged 80, who died 1906, "A faithful friend of the Castle Madoc family throughout her long life;" the Prices of Gwenffrwd; and John Jones, Esq., who died at Scethrog House, January 14, 1826, aged 65, and John Jones his youngest son who died Dec. 17, 1874, aged 70.

The value of the living of Llanfihangel-fechan is £94, being the interest of lands sold and money invested in Consols. There is no vicarage, the living being held with that of the parish of Garthbrenny. The patron is the Rector of Llandefaclog-fach; the curates in charge since 1800 have been as follows: 1819, Thomas Price; 1826, David Price; 1828, John Davies; 1831, William Williams; 1834, David Price; 1860, Roger Williams; 1867, William Howells; 1904, A. E. Evans. A sum of £50 was received from the Church Building Society—90 seats being declared free. The oak pulpit was the gift of Mrs. Selina Powel, of Castle Madoc, A.D. 1884.

There is a Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, built in 1857. The British School was built in 1852, with accommodation for 60 children; it was erected chiefly at the charge of Hugh Powell Powel, Esq., the trustees being the owner of Castle Madoc, the vicar, and others. All the bridges in the Vale of Honddu, except one in this parish, were swept away by a flood in 1859. Formerly there was a flourishing flannel factory here, but it has ceased working.

Near the mansion of Castle Madoc, of which we give an illustration, are the ruins of the castle already referred to. The population is roughly 100, of which number some few adhere to Welsh, the others speaking English.



## MERTHYR CYNOG, or SAINT CYNOG the Martyr,

**B**EARS within itself its own explanation and unequivocally imports to whom the parish is dedicated. Cynog (called in English Martyrologies *Canoc*;) as has been seen in the first volume, was the eldest but illegitimate son of Bryehan Bryeheiniog. He was slain or murdered in one of the early eruptions of the Saxons into Wales in the fifth century, on the summit of the hill in this parish, nearly opposite Castlemadoe, called Vanoleu, and, according to Owen, was buried in Merthyr church, but probably he was interred where he fell, for the church, which was dedicated to his memory, cannot be supposed to have been erected prior to his death. The edifice now remaining, though certainly very old, does not appear to be earlier than the Norman era, though some of the materials of the original building, or at least of the crosses, marking the interment of the saint and his companions, may have been used in the present structure, particularly one five feet in length and nearly one in thickness, in an horizontal posture, in the middle of the eastern pine end wall. In the church porch is another, about the same length.

## THE CHURCH AND ITS INSCRIPTIONS.

Both of these were undoubtedly formerly placed in other situations, from whence they were removed when the church was re-built or repaired. It is situated upon a lofty ridge or eminence, between the two vales of Eseir fawr and Eseir fechan, in nearly the centre of the parish. This church, like most of the other country churches in Breconshire, and we fear in Wales, resembles a large barn, into which something like pens for sheep have been thrown in disorderly regularity to rot when they become unfit for use; here and there one of them may seem to have been consigned to its cold damp situation before its time, and the proprietor may endeavour to fix it firmly to the soil and to repair its defects, but in general the doors are dropping off, boards are wanting on the sides, the benches are tumbling, and the floor is uneven. In this church the floor is partly of earth and partly flagged, the seats and benches are decayed and broken, the pulpit is old and crazy, what is called the communion table nearly rotten, and the windows are frequently broken. At the western end of the nave is a heavy, clumsily built steeple, containing four bells; in the body of the church there are no gravestones or inscriptions worth noticing. Within the communion rails, "Here lieth the body of David ap David Morgan, paternally descended from Owen Gethin, he departed this life *Anno Domini* 1602." (Arms, per pale, baron not legible, femme, a buck tripping, with a coronet between his horns; these last are the arms of Cradoc ap Gwilym, and therefore probably the sculptor has committed an error by placing them in the sinister, instead of dexter side of the shield.) Near this stone is another, "Here lyeth the body of Roger ———, sonne to John ap Llew ap Morgan ap Sir David Gam of Peyton, knight, he had issue ——— children, now living VIII, Watkin, John, Rowland, William, Margaret, Anne, Elizabeth and Roland, he died ——— 1600"; round the margin the words "the daughter of John Games of Aberbran," are legible: on this stone are the outlines of a man in armour in profile, on his head the helmet of an esquire, and in his hand a sword; on the right side of the stone (looking downwards upon it) a female, her hands in the attitude of supplication, between both figures the letters I H S, and above them a shield, in which are 32 armorial quarterings, among them Vaughan, Bleddin ap Maenarch, Bryehan, Rhys Goch, &c. &c., but many of them are so defaced as not to be legible. It is difficult to fill up the whole of the first blank; this tombstone certainly covers the remains of Roger Vaughan, a great grandson of the first Watkin Vaughan of Merthyr; he married Sibil, the daughter of John Games of Aberbran, son of Llewelyn ap Morgan ap Sir David Gam. On the eastern pine end wall, near the communion table, are the arms of Vaughan, quartering several others, nearly rubbed out, or rather *rubbed over* with white lime.

There is no table of benefactions hung up in the church, nor do we find that any donations have been received for the repairs of the church or the use of the poor, although in 1640 Jenkin John of this parish, by his will, proved in the register office at Brecon about 1800, gave ten pounds to be laid out at interest for the repairs of the church, and ten pounds to be laid out at interest for the benefit of the poor of this parish; he likewise gave five pounds for the maintenance of the prisoners in the county gaol of Brecon, to be paid them on the feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, and as late as the year 1760, Mr. Edward Gwyn of Pant y cored or Pant y corred, by his will, proved in the same office, gave to his brother Thomas Gwyn, in fee, among other lands, a tenement



in this parish called Dolwydd, chargeable with an annuity of forty shillings for the use of the poor there, payable to testator's trusty friend, John Bevan of Pantgriffith, "as a person in trust to receive the said annuity for the use of the poor for ever, to be by him and his heirs, with the assistance of the vicar and churchwardens, distributed on the 20th of December yearly." The first donation, if it has been neglected for some years, is perhaps irrecoverably lost, but there is an apparent inattention in the guardians of the interest of the poor in not enforcing the payment of the latter bequest.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PARISH IN 1809.

About two miles eastward of the mother church, and adjoining the road from Brecon to Builth, at the distance of eight miles from the former place, is a chapel called Capel Dyffryn Honddu or Capel ycha, Honddu vale or Upper Chapel, to the curacy of which the vicar of Merthyr nominates; it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and may perhaps hereafter exceed the vicarage in value. Its present appearance is that of a stable or small outhouse, not being surrounded by any wall or fence, as no persons are interred there.

We do not know that there are any remains of Roman or British encampments in this parish, except one of the latter description on the hill above Alltarnog, facing the vale of Honddu, the entrenchments round which are perfect on most sides. This we believe to have been formed and occupied by Madoc ap Maenarch and his descendants before the building of the castellated mansion of Castlemadoc.

#### AN ANCESTOR OF SIR JOHN LLEWELYN, BART.

There have been but few families of even transient celebrity within this parish. On the east, after passing Castlemadoc, about two miles further on the road to Builth, is Baili-brith, the variegated fold, either from its being partly covered with verdure and partly gravel or pebbles, or else from the domestic animals of various colours frequently seen within it: in which case it should more properly be written Bu-le or Buw-le the kine-fold or place for kine, as a farm in Carmarthenshire is called. This tenement continued in the possession of the descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch until the beginning of the seventeenth century, when Mary the daughter and heiress of Thomas Llwyd, as some, of David Thomas, as others, married Henry Williams, otherwise Harry ap Gwilym ap Harry of Battle, of what tribe we know not, but their posterity bore the surname of Williams. Thomas Williams, their son, married a sister of James Watkins of Tregood, esquire, after whom followed in succession two of the name of Henry Williams, the latter of whom was sheriff of Breconshire in 1716, and married Elinor the daughter of Lewis Havard of Devynock, by whom he had issue Catherine, who married Samuel Gwyn of Pant y cored, and Mary, who married John Llewelyn of Ynis y gerwn, esquire, from whom the estate has descended to Mr. Llewelyn, the proprietor, in 1800.

Northward of this mansion, about a mile, but on a different side of the Honddu is Mynachty or Monachty, the monastery, once the residence of those monks from the Priory of Malvern, who were employed to superintend the temporal concerns of that religious house, and to collect their dues in this parish, now a miserable hovel, with a small farm attached, without the smallest vestige of its former magnificence, for such we must conclude it possessed when the Priory to which it belonged became affluent, though it was not of sufficient consequence to be noticed in Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*.

#### THE VAUGHANS OF ESCIR FECHAN.

Crossing from the vale of Honddu to that of the Escir, we come to the only remaining house of note and distinguished family in this parish, though the name has already been changed by marriage, and the line will be extinct with the present Mrs. Chabert, the last of the race of Vaughan of Escir fechan, a house situate on the western side of that river, which has undergone the fate of most of our mansions by its conversion into a farmer's dwelling: this estate also continued in the descendants of Bleddin ap Maenarch until the before mentioned marriage of Watkin Vaughan, grandson of Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower, sometime during the reign of Henry the Eighth, with the heiress of Peytyn Gwyn, who brought him this tenement, nearly the whole of the parish of Merthyr, and also the Peytyns and other property in the adjoining parishes, and from them descended not only the Vaughans of Escir fechan, but also those of Trebarried, as will be seen by the genealogy of these branches of this family, who as they were so numerous, so opulent, and of such celebrity, deserve particular attention here.

The ancestor of the house of Vaughan, and with whom their pedigree generally commences, was first cousin to the unfortunate Bleddin ap Maenarch, the last lord of Brecon. He was known by the names of Moreiddig Warwyn, the first appellation (the mighty jealous one) being undoubtedly descriptive of his mind, and the next (Whitenape or white shoulder), of some singularity of mark



upon his body: tradition indeed tells us that he was born with a snake round his neck, from whence the place of his nativity, Llee hryd in Radnorshire, abbreviated from Lle dyehryn llyd, the place of horror, was so called, and from this supposed event his posterity took their arms, sable three boys' heads couped at the shoulders, each having a snake wreathed round his neck proper.

He lived in the beginning of the twelfth century, but of his exploits or the time of his death, history has not afforded us the smallest information, his descendant in the fourth generation was of Llee hryd, and called Rosser fawr or Roger the great, and his son again, Rosser Byehan, Fyehan (since corrupted into Vaughan), or Roger the little. In his time, from their connections, they seem to have been in opulent circumstances, but the founder of the family in point of wealth was Gwalter y Sais, or Walter the Englishman, a contemporary and perhaps a companion of Einon Sais, in the wars in France, in the time of Edward the Third.

Upon his return home, this Gwalter Sais married Florence, daughter and heiress of Sir Walter Bredwardine a lineal descendant of Sir Piers Bredwardine, who lived in the time of Edward the First, and was elder brother of Sir Roger Bredwardine of Crickehowel, and as the adventures of this Walter, in the services of the king of England, increased the wealth of the family, his grandson was born to distinguish himself and to throw a lustre on his descendants by the gallantry of his conduct on the plains of France, where the exploits of his grandsire have been forgotten.

#### ISSUE OF SIR ROGER VAUGHAN.

Sir Roger Vaughan, one of the heroes of Agincourt, left three legitimate and one natural son and several daughters. From the first son of Sir Roger Vaughan, sprung Vaughan of Penbrey in Carmarthenshire, afterwards (by marriage with an heiress of the junior house of Tretower), of Porthaml, from whom the first Lady Ashburnham. A second brother of this branch of Penbrey was of Wilts, and a still younger son was the paternal ancestor of Jenkins of Pant y nawel in Glamorganshire.<sup>1</sup>

The descendants of the second son, were the Vaughans of Hergest, who terminated in the male line with the father of Frances, who married Vaughan of Trebarried, and Vaughans of Clyro, now of Courtfield in Monmouthshire. Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower, the third son, is almost entitled to be considered as the head of a tribe; for his issue by different women, whether wives or concubines, is by no means clear, nor does it seem to have been very material in his time; they were so numerous that they are with difficulty followed. The eldest shoot was preserved in the house of Tretower, and afterwards of Seethrog, from whence two slips sprouted, the one planted at Llangrwyne and the other at Newton in Llansaintfread, both of which soon withered; the second son of Sir Roger was ancestor of the first Vaughans of Porthaml, whose heiress married Vaughan of Penbrey as before mentioned, a junior son of this line was Vaughan, ancestor of the house of Merthyr, whose descendants again were the Vaughans of Trebarried, who terminated with the father of Mrs. Harley, and the second branch of the Merthyr Vaughans ended in the male line with the father of Mrs. Chabert.

The issue of a fourth son of Sir Roger Vaughan were the Vaughans of Cathedine, Penkelley and Llanvillo. The descendants of a fifth son, were sometime of Trebarried, so called from them, and took the surname of Parry, as did also the posterity of the sixth son, Sir Thomas Vaughan, beheaded in the time of Richard the Third, of which family, the last named in the pedigrees is Sir Thomas Parry, chancery clerk to the exchequer in the time of Elizabeth.

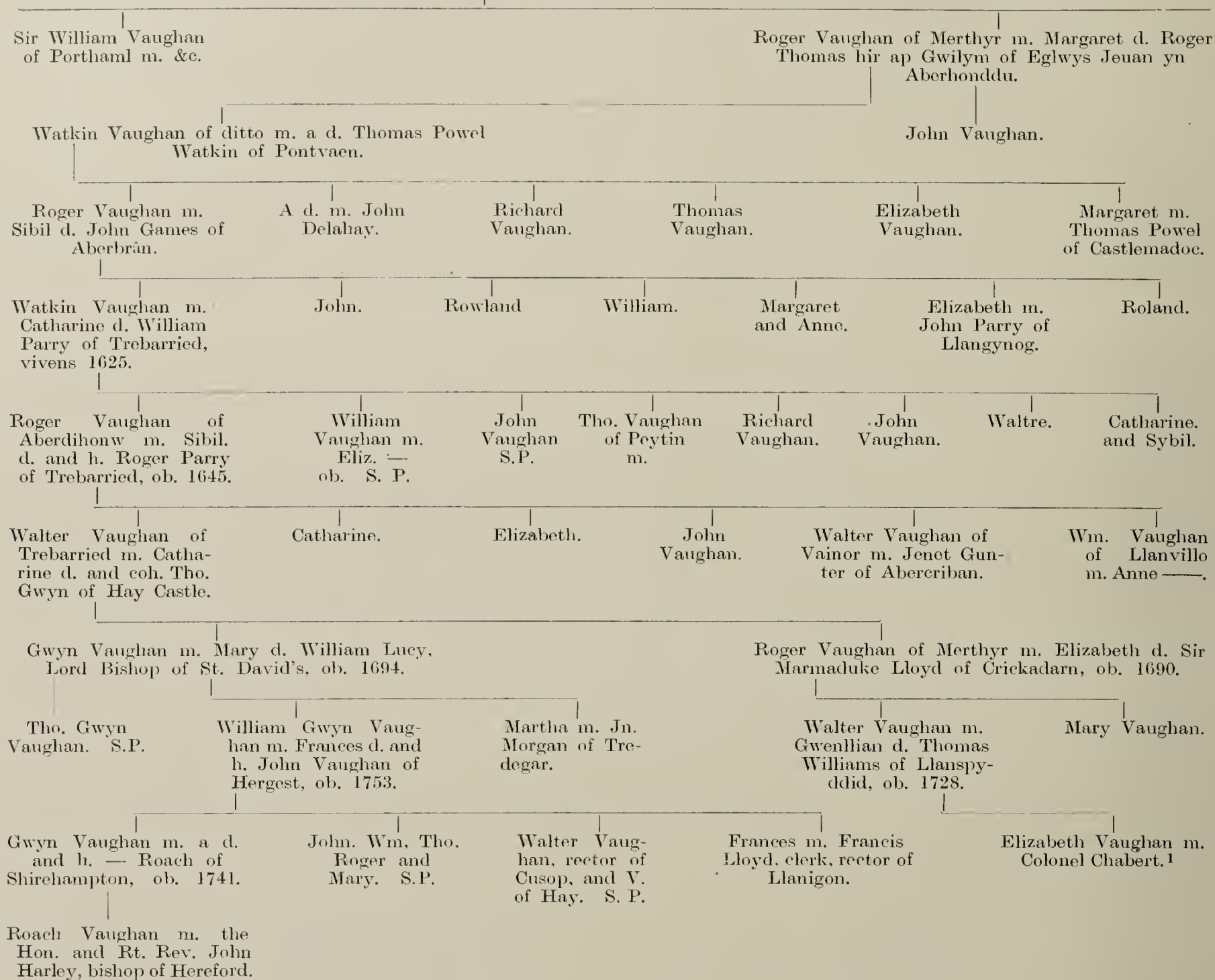
We have here endeavoured to give a delineation of the genealogical tree, with the branches, as they appear to spring from the trunk or radix. The pedigrees in this volume will be given as they occur in the order of the parishes wherein they were settled, among which, the first is Vaughan of Yseir fechan.

<sup>1</sup> Among the sons of this Watkin Vaughan must be reckoned (according to Griffith Owen Hiraethog, a Welsh herald, in the beginning of the sixteenth century) Watkin, who had issue John Vaughan, whose son, Sir Hugh Jones knight, lies buried in the chancel of Saint Mary's at Swansea, having the following inscription in the old law character upon his tomb:—"Pray for the soule of Sir Hugh Johnys, knight and Dame Mawde his wife, which Sir Hugh was made knight of the holy sepulchre of our Lord Ihu Crist, in the city of Jerusalem the xiiii. day of August, in the yere of oure Lord God, MCCCCXLI. and the said Sir Hugh had continuyd in the Werris ther long tyme before by the space of fyve yer. that is to say, agenst the Turkis and Saracyns in the ptis of Troy, Grece and Turkey, under John yt tyme Emperowre of Constantyneople, and aftyr that was knight Marshal of Frawnce under John Duke of Som'set by the space of fyve yere, and in likewise aftyr that was knight Marshal of Ingland under the good John Duke of Norfolk, which John gave unto hym the manor of Llondymor, to him and to his heys for ever more, upon whose soullis Ihu have mercy. Fiat Mia tua Dne super nos."



## VAUGHAN OF YSCIRFECHAN AND TREBARRIED.

See Vaughan of Bredwardine and Tretower to Watkin Vaughan (grandson of Sir Roger Vaughan of Tretower) inclusive; he married Joan, daughter of Gwilym fychan, &c.



## THE WILL OF WATKIN VAUGHAN.

Watkin Vaughan the grandson of the first Watkin, and father of Roger, whose tombstone in Merthyr church has been just noticed, died in 1577; by his will it appears that the portion of his daughter Elizabeth was £40, and to his daughter Margaret Vaughan, afterwards Margaret the wife of Thomas Powel of Castlemadoc, he gives only twenty lambs, from whence it should seem that either some partition of his estate had taken place in his lifetime, by which she was to inherit the lands about Castlemadoc, or else that her brother settled them upon her upon her marriage: he appoints "Mr. William Games and Mr. Richard Pryse, esqrs., to be overseers to see his will fulfilled to the welthe of his soule," and recites a debt of 33s. 4d. to be due to him from Thomas de le Haia. Both the elder and junior lines of this family have terminated in females: the Trebarried branch

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Chabert's mother, when she married Mr. Vaughan, was widow of Hugh Penry of Cefnbrith; she married thirdly Edward Jones vicar of Merthyr, by whom she had two children, Thomas and Elizabeth.



continues in Mrs. Harley, but upon the death of the present Mrs. Chabert, widow of the late Colonel Chabert, without issue, the Vaughans of Merthyr, in the junior line, will be extinct.

## ECCLESIASTICAL, AND THE JEFFREYS CHARITY.

The tythes and advowson of Merthyr Cynog formerly belonged to the Priory of Malvern, to whom they were given by Milo Fitzwalter, earl of Gloucester; this grant, in which it is called by the abominably corrupted name of Marte conot, was afterwards confirmed by *inspeximus* of Henry the First.<sup>1</sup> For some time after the dissolution of the monasteries these tythes were in the possession of the Crown; in the middle of the reign of James the First, they were conveyed to trustees, for the purpose of sale. To whom they were first disposed of we know not, but in the reign of Charles the First they are found in the possession of Sir Francis Fane, from whom they were taken by the Propagators of the Gospel in Wales, but restored to him upon the return of Charles the Second: soon after this event Sir Francis sold them to John Jeffreys of the Llywel family, father to the late Mr. John Jeffreys of West Sheen, and in a short time after the death of the latter they were purchased, under a decree of the Court of Chancery for a sale of a great part of his property, by the late Mr. Pennoyre Watkins. By one of the family of Jeffreys the tythes were charged jointly with a tenement in Llywel, with £5 per annum to the poor of the latter parish. His youngest son, the Reverend Thomas Watkins, is under his will (as we apprehend) entitled to the advowson as impropiator, unless the right of presentation was expressly reserved at the sale. This vicarage has a parsonage house, but no glebe belonging to it, and though now augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty, is one of the poorest in point of value of any in the county; it was estimated at thirty pounds per annum in Pope Nicholas's taxation, but at that time Llandilo'r fan and Llanfihangel nant bran formed part of the parish, and indeed as late as 1646 they were so considered; for in a MS. book of orders made in Parliament in the time of Charles the First, in the Bodleian library, we find the following entry, dated November 4, 1646, "Merthir Kennogg, by virtue of and order of both houses of parliament of the second of May last; is ordered that the yearly sume of fifty pounds be allowed and paid out of the impropriate *Rectorie* of Merthir Kennog, in the countie of Brecknock, sequestered from Sir Francis Ffan<sup>2</sup> knight, delinquent, to and for the increase of the maintenance of the minister of the parish church of Merthir Kennogg aforesaid his present maintenance being but 20tee marks per ann. and it is further ordered that the said sum of forty pounds be paid out of the profits of the said rectorie towards the maintenance of such minister as shall officiate in the chapel of Llanvihangel nant bran, the present maintenance being only 20tee nobles p. ann., and it is likewise ordered that the further yerely sum of forty pounds be allowed and paid out of the profits of the said rectorie towards the maintenance of such minister as shall officiate in the chappell being only six pounds p. ann., and it is further ordered that the like yerely sum of ten pounds be allowed and paid out of the profits of the said rectorie towards the maintenance of the minister of the chappell of Cappel Dyffryn honthi, the present maintenance belonging to the said chappell being only four pounds p. ann., all which said chappells are within and belonging to the said parish of Merthir Kennog, and the seqrs. of the premises are required to allow and paie the same accordinglie at such times and seasons of the year as the profits shall grow due and payable."

The present produce of the living to the vicar after deducting the curate's salary is little more than the valuation in 1288. It was certified in the time of Queen Anne to be worth ten pounds per annum, it pays 15s. 0½d. tenths, 9s. 7d. per annum, synodals and procurations, and 2s. 8d. annually for archidiaconal procurations. The register commences in 1721, and the living is discharged.

## LATER PARTICULARS.

The church remained in the pitiable condition described by Jones until the year 1862, when it was restored at a cost of £787 11s. 7d. Four years later (1866) the tower was re-roofed at a cost of about £120. The expenses attending the restoration were met by voluntary contributions, the chief subscribers being the late Colonel Watkins, M.P., £133 8s. 4d., Lord Camden, £75, and Mr. John Llewellyn of Penllergare, Swansea, £75. The timber of the belfry, which had suffered sadly from exposure to the weather during very many years, was in 1901 in too rotten a condition to bear the strain of ringing the bells, of which there are four, one being cracked.

<sup>1</sup> Dugd. Monast. vol. I. p. 366.

<sup>2</sup> We are at a loss to account how this rectory could have been in the possession of Sir Francis Fane, unless it was by purchase from the trustees, or perhaps under a grant, among other possessions, by Charles the First, with whom he was deservedly a favorite.



Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart, who visited the church in 1865 remarks: "This church, within a spacious churchyard, has been lately very nicely restored, and partly rebuilt. It has the common arrangement, a nave and chancel undivided, a western tower, and south porch. The tower, low, plain, and strongly built, is of an essentially Welsh make; almost a military character. It has no buttress, nor stringcourse, nor doorway. All the openings are mere narrow slits. The battlement is rude, and under it is a Corbel-table. The roof is painted and covered with tiles. It opens to the nave by a pointed doorway. The windows of the chancel, on the north, are single trefoil-headed lancets; on the south one single and one double lancet; at the east end a triplet; in the nave double lancets with trefoil heads. Some of the windows are new, but done quite in the spirit of the ecclesiology of the district. The rood-screen remains between the nave and chancel; it has plain, arched compartments, and the vine-cornice has been restored. There is a rude, arched piscina south of the altar. Near the north door is a large stone stoup. The sacrarium is large and laid with new tiles; the chancel stalled; the new seats of the nave are open, and very neat; all the new arrangements are praiseworthy. The font has a circular bowl on cylindrical stem. In the churchyard are fine yew trees."

#### ECCLESIASTICAL.

The augmentations from Queen Anne's Bounty, from 1723 to 1792, amount to £1,000. Previous to 1845 some connection existed between Merthyr Cynog and Llanfihangel nant bran; entries are frequently found in both registers by T. Price, the incumbent of the latter place. He seems also to have held Dyffryn Honddu, a chapel of Merthyr Cynog; since 1814 Dyffryn Honddu has been held by the incumbent of Merthyr Cynog. The patrons of the living of Merthyr Cynog are the Marquis of Camden and the Evans of Ffrwdgrech family alternately; the latter family possess the lay tithes. The gross income of Merthyr Cynog in 1901 was £91; of this, £10 was received from the tithe impropiator; £55 from Bounty lands; and £26 from Government Stock, being the product of Bounty lands sold. The gross income of Duffryn Honddu was £97; and of this, £55 came from Bounty farms and £42 invested money, the product of Bounty lands sold. Duffryn Honddu church was restored about 1850, and there are seats for 80 persons.

#### POPULATION, EDUCATION, &c.

Merthyr Cynog had in 1891 a population of 659; in 1841 it had 815. Its area is about 21,278 acres, and the rateable value £4,933. It is in the rural district of Brecknock, and Petty Sessional division of Merthyr, the Polling District of Lower Chapel, and the Electoral Division of Battle.

There are no local trades, the parish being purely agricultural. Nearly all the people speak Welsh and English, but the former is losing ground, especially amongst the young. Services in both church and chapels are chiefly in English. The literature read is chiefly English, and the children almost without exception speak English at play and attend English classes at Sunday school.

The education of children was provided for and controlled by a School Board until the abolition of these bodies. There are three schools at different centres, viz., Merthyr Cynog village, Pontfaen, and Upper Chapel; the number of children being about 90. Before the formation of the Board in 1878, the work of education was carried on at the National Schools situate at Merthyr Cynog and Upper Chapel; the latter was built in 1855, the former probably a little later. Previously a part of the parish church had been partitioned off for a schoolroom, and Duffryn Honddu church was utilized for the same purpose. The Merthyr Cynog school was leased to the board, by which body the other schools were erected. There are no school endowments.

There are within the parish two Calvinistic Methodist and two Independent Chapels. One Methodist is at Pontfaen; the other, Tydu or Siloah, near Merthyr Cynog village. The latter has some historical interest, being one of the foundations of the Rev. John Wesley. The two Independent Chapels, Ebenezer and Bethania, are in Upper Chapel.

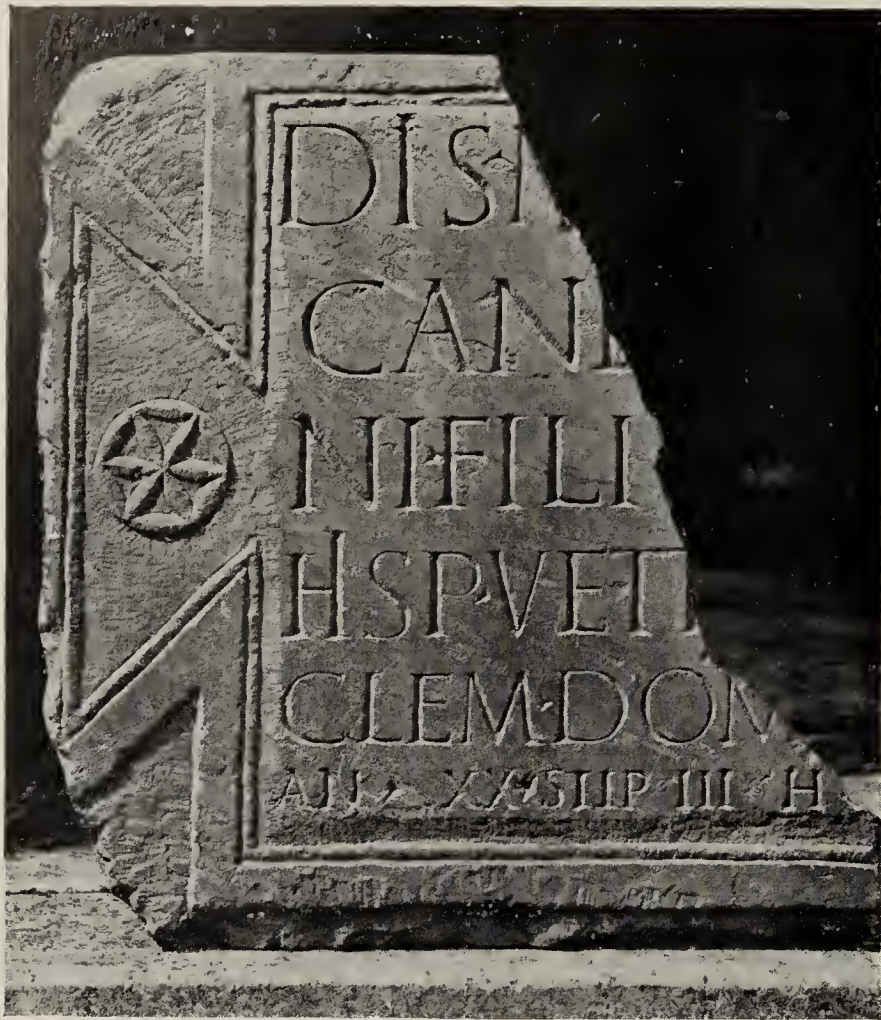
#### EDWARD GWYN'S CHARITY.

By his will dated January 10th 1729, and proved at Brecon 24th April, 1760, Edward Gwyn (probably of Pantycorred) gave to the poor of Eskirfawr and Eskirfechan, an annuity of 40s. out of the rent charge of Dolwydd, a farm and lands situate in Merthyr Cynog, the said sum to be distributed every year by John Bevan, of Pantgriffith, whom he appointed trustee, on Christmas Eve, with the assistance of the Vicar and Churchwardens. The farm charged in 1836 was the property of William Dilwyn, Esq., who was M.P. for Glamorgan County, and it consisted of 30 acres. The money was to be distributed in sums of not less than 4s., according to the circumstances and wants of the recipients.









THE ROMAN STONE AT PENOYRE.

This Stone was dug up in a field near Cradoc, and was placed upon a heap of stones in the road-way to be broken up. Mr. JOHN GRIFFITHS, builder, of Brecon, fortunately saw it, and conveyed the stone to Brecon. The late BARON CLEASBY was communicated with, and it was then removed to its present position at Penoyre.



A SET OF BRECONSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S  
"BUTTONS."

*(From Photograph of a set of them in the possession of Edmund J. Jones, J.P., of Fforest Legionis.)*



## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1574.—		Sir Thomas James.			
1580.—Richard Price of the Priory of Brecon, esq.		Sir Hugh Evans.			
1583.—Richard Price, esq.		Richard Lloyd. <sup>1</sup>	1758.—Mary Jeffreys, a committee of Jeffrey Jeffreys, a lunatic.		David Griffiths, held also the Vicarage of Llanfihangel nant bran, where he resided, the duties of Merthyr Cynog being done by Curates: they were, David Price, Morgan Jones, and T. Price. The latter succeeded to Llanfihangel nant bran.
1604.—The Crown by lapse.		Thomas Lewis. <sup>2</sup>			Ch. Griffith (died 1821.)
1662.—		Thomas Lewis. <sup>3</sup>			Rees Jenkins (died 1828.)
1670.—The Crown <i>pro hac vice</i> .		David John Gwilym. <sup>4</sup>			Rees Williams (died 1845.)
1713.—		Samuel Jones.	1817.—		Thomas Jones (died April 1900.)
1714.—The Crown by lapse.		Thomas Herring. <sup>5</sup>	1821.—		
1736.—Nicholas Jeffreys, esq.		Rice Williams.	1828.—		
1741.—Nicholas Jeffreys of Bedford Row, esq.		Edward Jones. <sup>6</sup>	1843.—John Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, esq.		David Lewis Thomas (instituted July 16.)
		Thomas Williams, A.M.	1900.—Marquis Camden and J.D. Evans, esq., Ffrwdgrech, alternately.		
		Jeshua Thomas. <sup>7</sup>			

## BATTLE.

ACCORDING to Ecton, is dedicated to Saint Cynog, but of this we entertain considerable doubts. It has been already seen that the district now called the parish of Battle, anciently formed part of, and was a hamlet of Saint John the Evangelist's in Brecon, in which church the inhabitants of the former precinct have a chapel called by their name, where they resorted to hear divine service before the present fabric in the country was built, and in which they continue occasionally to bury their dead to this very day, so that what is now called Battle chapel, was evidently built by the Normans after the conquest of Breconshire, either by one of the lords of Brecon or more probably by the prior and convent of Brecon, who gave this district the name of Battle, in compliment to the abbey to which the whole parish was attached; in either of these cases we conclude that the patron Saint was Saint Martin or Saint John, but as we have no authority for this conjecture, we shall not absolutely contest the title of the British saint to the district, but leave him from henceforward in the undisturbed possession of it, hoping that those who feel for his honour will excuse our scepticism, and in return we consign them to his protection, wishing them a participation in the benefits of his bracclet whenever it shall fortunately be recovered.

The chapel or church called Battle, is *now* parochial to all intents and purposes, the inhabitants appoint their own officers, maintain their own poor, pay no tythes to the minister or impropriator of Saint John's, nor does the vicar of that parish nominate to this augmented curacy; in short they are so completely torn or divorced from each other, that no remains of their former connexion can be discovered. The building is situated upon an eminence three miles from Brecon, in the road to Merthyr Cynog, to which parish it adjoins. It is a small low edifice surrounded by a cemetery,

<sup>1</sup> He resigned in 1583, but when presented is uncertain; he must have been vicar but for a short time, as Hugh Evans had the living in 1580.

<sup>2</sup> He was the brother of Watkin Lewis y bobydd or the baker, who died in Brecon in 1587.

<sup>3</sup> He died in 1647, possessed of a very considerable estate in this parish, part of which he describes as having been bought of Jehn Delahay and Thomas Delahay; he seems to have died without issue as he leaves several tenements to his nephew Philip Prosser, clerk, and Treharne Watkin; gives pecuniary legacies to half the parish, and a cow to Meredith Price for making his will. His widow was Marslie, to whom he devised lands "provided she made no claim to the *three principals* of his stuff," which he gave to another person: this custom of bequeathing the three most valuable articles of the household furniture frequently occurs in old wills, either from some mystical allusion or in compliance with a provincial regulation or obsolete law. These three *principals* were anciently, in all probability, the only property which the testator could dispose of, the remainder being, before the statute of William and Mary, mentioned in the former volume, the *rationabilis pars bonorum* claimed by the widow and children, or if they claimed the three most valuable articles, the testator could dispose of the rest; for in this case the widow seems to have had an option.

<sup>4</sup> When presented is uncertain, he was one of the Gwilyms of Garreg fawr in Ystradvellte, and is described as vicar of Merthyr in a M.S. pedigree in our possession, which as usual has no date; he must have lived between 1604 and 1643.

<sup>5</sup> Curate of Battle in 1662, his eldest son and grandson took the surname of Thomas, but one of the junior branches of the family retained the appellation of Herring, which still continues in the parish.

<sup>6</sup> He was of the family of Jones, of Cilvaeh yr heddwch, near Llandevey, and married the widow of the late Mr. Vaughan, of Escir fechan.

<sup>7</sup> On the resignation of Mr. Williams.



about which is a wall not always preserved in the best state of repair; a few straggling houses near it give this place the name of a village, but there is no parsonage or glebe attached to the curacy. we do not find that any benefactions to the poor or donations to pious uses have been bequeathed to this parish except *twelve pence* given in 1573, by a testator towards glazing the great window of the chapel, which has frequently since required a similar or rather greater expenditure.

History as well as tradition has fixed this as the scene of action where the fate of Breconshire was decided, upon its attack by Bernard Newmarch, but except the well called Ffynon Pen Rhys, the lane called Heol y Cymri, and a Maen hir, or long upright stone, below the church on the south side, no vestige remains to recall this event to recollection or to confirm the tale; the probability however of this battle having been fought here, and the supposed points of attack and defence are stated shortly, but sufficiently at length for conjecture, in the first volume.

#### THE ANCIENT FREEHOLDERS.

The freehold in the greatest part, if not the whole, of the lands in this parish, formerly belonged to the monastery of Brecon; upon the dissolution, Sir John Price added them to his other possessions. They were disposed of by his posterity, and those claiming under conveyances from them at different times, but the manor, which is co-extensive with the parish, remained with the family of Jeffreys of Abercynrig and descended to Lord Ashbrook, who sold it to the Reverend Thomas Watkins of Pennoyre House, in this parish. The impropriate tithes, together with the mansion and demesne, the residence of the late family of the Mitchels, on the north west boundary of the parish, were purchased from Mr. John Jeffreys of the Priory of Brecon, by one William David of this parish, who left issue three sons, David Williams, Howel Williams and John Williams. David had a son, William Williams, who was in the law, in the Six Clerks' Office, considerably improved his patrimony, and died unmarried, leaving three sisters. Hester, the eldest, married Thomas Mitchel in 1702, to whom she brought this estate; Henry, their son, married Margaret the daughter of Thomas Penry of Llwyncyntefn, and left only one son, the late Thomas Mitchel; his widow possessed it for her life. Upon failure of their issue, it was necessary to resort to the descendants of one of the daughters of David Williams, from whom this property was derived, and in that line was found Catherine, the wife of Evan Brown, late of Brecknock, whose eldest son, Henry Brown, late agent to Sir Charles Morgan of Tredegar, would have succeeded to this part of the estate, as heir at law: but his title to the reversion, after the death of Mrs. Mitchel, was confirmed by the will of her deceased husband, by whom it was devised to him; he is since dead, and his brother, John Brown of London, or his children, become the proprietors of the estate upon the above event.

#### COLONEL PETER CHABERT.

About one mile to the south east of this house, in the road to Brecon, is the mansion of the late Peter Chabert, esq., major of brigade and aide de camp to Lord Waldegrave, at the battle of Minden, and afterwards lieutenant colonel in the 108th regiment of foot, and after of his widow, Mrs. Chabert, built about forty years ago (1769), when there was hardly a tree near it. It is now protected by what may be almost called a grove of wood, serving for ornament as well as shelter, but how long they may be permitted to constitute either, when the rage for cutting down and the consequent demand for timber increases, time only can determine.

#### PENNOYRE, AND THE WATKINS FAMILY.

Advancing still towards Brecon, on the boundary of the parish of Saint John, appears the stately residence of the Reverend Thomas Watkins, vicar of Llandevelle, with the rectorial tythes annexed, and rector of Llandeavailog fach in this county. The first stone of this house was laid in 1799, as appears by the following inscription in the wall of an inner court.

PENNOYRE WATKINS, ARMIGER,  
PATER ILLE OPTUMUS ET VIR VENERANDUS,  
TERRAM CIRCUMJACENTEM EMIT ET EXCOLUIT,  
DOMUM ÆDIFICAVIT  
FILIUS IPSIUS THOMAS, A.M., F.R.S., F.A.S.  
NEPOTULUS ILLE CHARISSIMUS PENAUR,  
FUNDAMENTUM JECIT  
ANNO CHRISTI 1799.  
EHEU ? SICUT OMNE HUMANUM PERIBIT.  
TH. WATKINS.

From the windows of this house are three most beautiful views: on the east, through a small vista, are seen the village of Llanthew and Petyn gwyn, the residence of Sir David Gam in the early

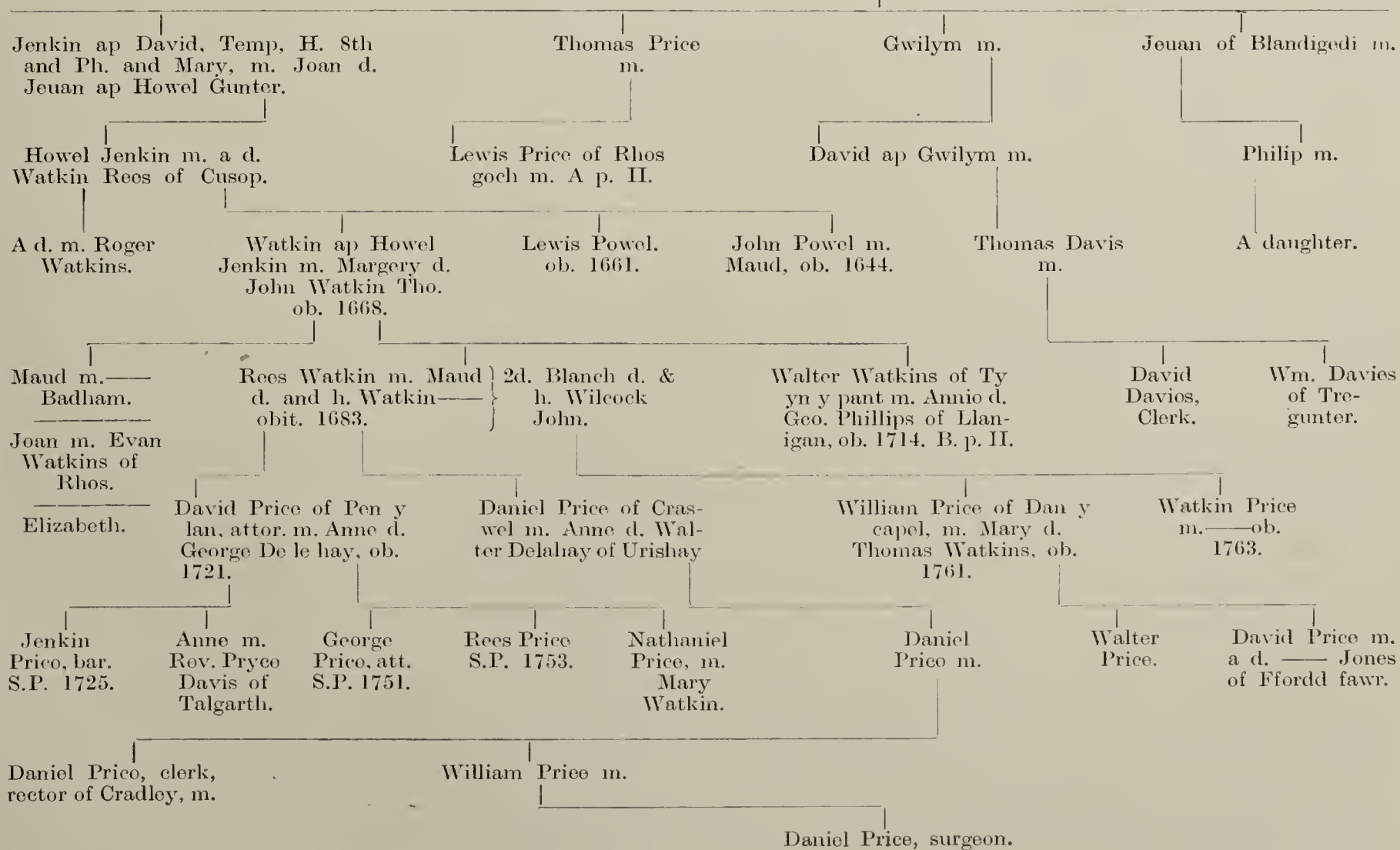


The family of Watkins, from the beginning of the reign of Henry the Seventh, to the end of the seventeenth century, were settled at Llanigon, when they removed to Hay and the neighbourhood. The late Pennoyre Watkins resided at Brecon, where by the practice of the law and by fortunate purchases, he accumulated a very considerable property. The Broadway estate near Laugharne in Caermarthenshire, bought of a descendant of Judge Powel, so well known for his conduct in favour of the bishops, in the time of James the Second, he devised to his eldest son, George Pryse Watkins, esq., and principal part of the Breconshire estate to his son Thomas. The names most familiar in this family formerly were Rees, Watkin and Jenkin. Thomas, the younger son of David Price of Pen y lan in Llanigon took the name of Price in the time of Henry the Seventh, by order of the President of the Council and Court of the Marches, where he practised as an advocate, and from him is descended the member for the borough of New Radnor in 1799. Watkin, the grandfather of David Price, is the last in most of the pedigrees preserved in Wales, but in one in the British Museum, by Hugh Thomas, the line is continued to the beginning of the eighteenth century, to which we have added such names in the later generations as we have been enabled to collect from tomb-stones, wills in the register office, and information from the family.

Same as Games to Watkin, tenth son of Dafydd ap Rhys y ddimau inclusive, ho married—

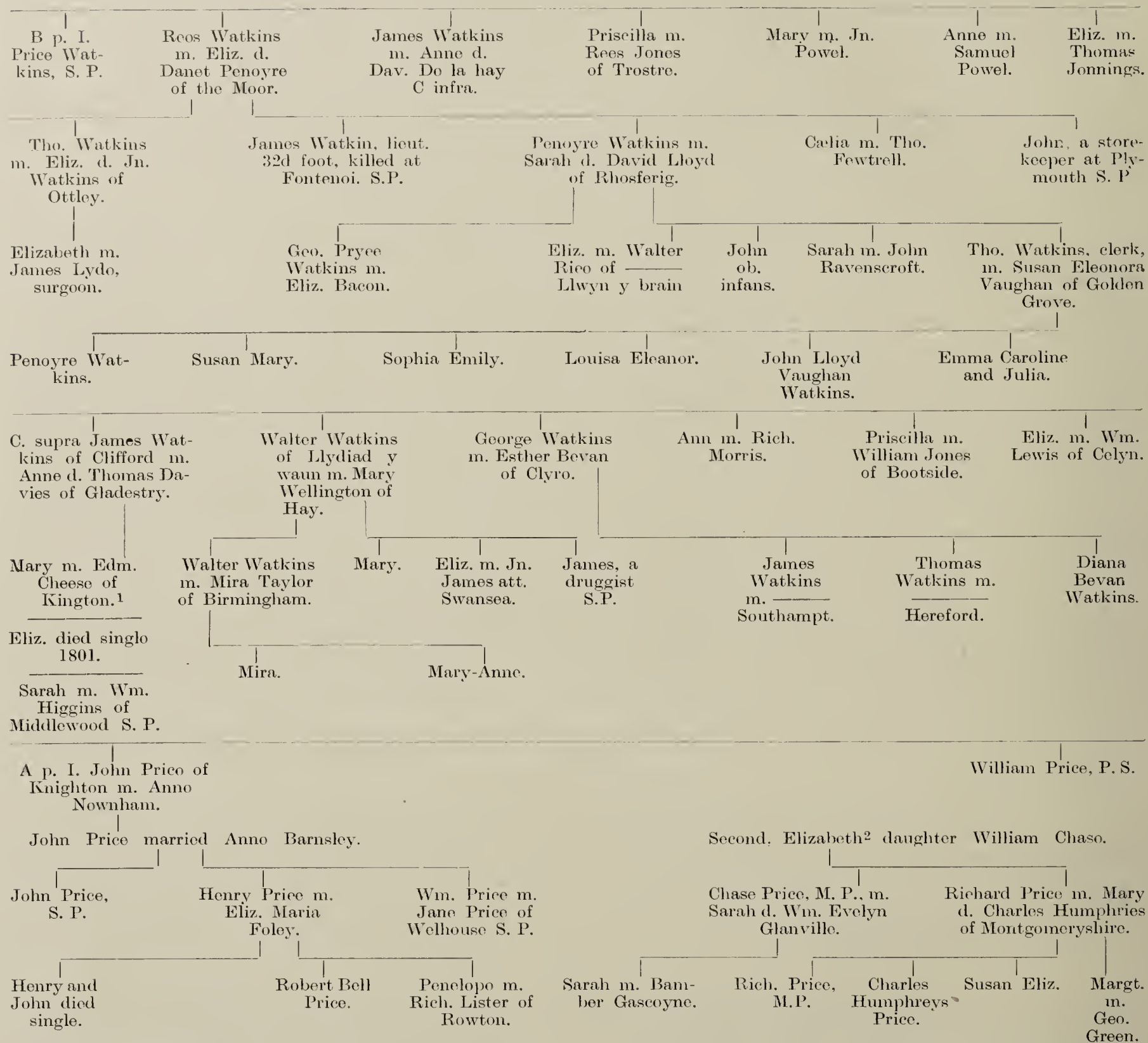
Rhys Watkin of Llanigon married—

David ap Rhys or Pricio of Pen y lan in Llanigon, Temp. Edward 7, married——





## II.



In the cursory view we took of the aspect and soil of the parish of Merthyr, we noticed the beauty of the vale of Eseir, which continues to be equally picturesque while we follow that river, until we come opposite Mrs. Chabert's, where a common intervenes and interscets this small parish, running across it from north-east to south-west; from the village southwards, except the meadows and pastures under Pennoyre and near Gliwdy, the cultivated lands are chiefly arable, as indeed they are at the other extreme of the parish, though their contiguity to the common or mountain, to which a right of commonage usually attaches, becomes particularly estimable to the farmer.

The impropiator of the tythes nominates to the curacy.

The certified value of which in the time of Queen Anne was £5 5s. according to Eeton, but according to the printed return to the Commons in that year, it was only £5 per annum. The register book commences in 1270, and the curaey is not in charge in the king's books.

<sup>1</sup> From whom Mr. Edmund H. Cheese, Solicitor, of Hay, Brecknockshire, who married and has issue two daughters, one of whom married Mr. Cope-Proctor, and has issue one son.

<sup>2</sup> From whom the Green-Price family of Knighton, Radnorshire, the head of the family being Sir R. D. Green-Price, Bart., a sister of whom married Sir Powlett C. Milbank, Bart., lord lieutenant of Radnorshire.



## LATER PARTICULARS.

This living was in 1850 a perpetual curacy, endowed with £600 Royal bounty and £200 Parliamentary grant, net income £73; the patrons and impropriators being the trustees of the late John Browne, Esq. The tithes were afterwards commuted for a rent-charge of £135. In 1889 the living was set down as £175 gross; it was £150 net in 1907.

In 1850 the church was described as being a small unadorned edifice; the east window was in the later style of English architecture; and the sacramental cup was engraved W.P.D. with the date 1576. In 1880 the church was restored at the sole expense of Lady Cleasby, of Pennoyre, whose husband, Sir Anthony Cleasby, Baron of the Court of Exchequer, bought the Pennoyre mansion and estate, and died there in 1879. The architect was Mr. J. Bacon Fowler. The church consists of chancel, nave, porch, and a one-bell turret.

The oak reredos was erected "To the beloved memory of Sir Anthony Cleasby, Knight, of Pennoyre, one of the Barons of Her Majesty's Court of Exchequer from the year 1868 to 1878, who died Oct. 6, 1879, aged 75 years. This tablet is erected by those who best knew his worth as a husband a father, and a brother."

Another tablet "Is erected sacred to the memory of Henry Mitchell, Esq., of Battle House, in this parish, Esq., who departed this life June 4, 1782, aged 77 years. Also Margaret wife of the above named Henry Mitchell, who departed this life September 28, 1788, aged 84; and also to Thomas Mitchell, Esq., son of the above Henry and Margaret Mitchell, who departed this life January 21, 1805, in the 68th year of his age, *who are all buried in the Battle Chapel in the Priory Church, Brecknock.* Also of Ann, wife of the above named Thomas Mitchell, who departed this life the 17th of May, 1814, aged 77 years, who is also buried in the Priory Church, Brecknock." There is also one to Howell Powell, of Battle Fawr, who died 4 June, 1858, aged 79, and also to his wife Jane, who died 1876, aged 81.

Also, "Sacred to the memory of John Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, of Pennoyre, lord lieutenant of the county, and Member of Parliament for the Borough of Brecon for many years. Born Feb. 22, 1802, died Sept. 28, 1865." There is also a tablet to the Kirkby family, who resided at Battle House; David Kirkby, Esq., died 20th March, 1860, aged 56, and the last recorded on the tablet is a daughter who died 1877.

The church contains, for so small an area, a large number of sepulchral monuments. At the east end is the Cleasby burial place, and besides the Baron already mentioned, Lucy Susan, Lady Cleasby, is commemorated by an inscription which gives her death as occurring on April 12, 1887, aged 75. Within a railed space is a tomb to the memory of Emma Caroline, wife of George Thomas Louth, Esq., and daughter of Rev. Thomas Watkins of Pennoyre, who died April 23, 1861. The district must be conducive to long life, for of 15 inscriptions casually copied, the ages were 96, 91, 84, three 83, 82, two 81, 79, two 77, and three 75.

There is an old wooden chest, and iron box, in the vestry; the font is modern; and there is a holy water stoup.

During many years this living was held in conjunction with that of Llanddew by the late Rev. J. Lane Davies, but upon his death it was proposed to appoint the Vicar of St. John's and St. Mary's to hold it jointly with those parishes, but some difficulty arising, it was got over by inducting the Senior Curate of St. Mary's, the Rev. H. J. Church Jones, M.A., who now holds it as well as the curacy, and the parish is served by the curates of the town parishes mentioned.

## THE DEATH OF COLONEL LLOYD WATKINS.

The Pennoyre mansion and part of the estate was purchased by Baron Cleasby about 1895, another portion of it having been sold in 1869. The purchase price was £45,500. The magnificent mansion was built by the late Colonel Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, M.P., at a cost of about £100,000, to replace the older family seat. Colonel Watkins, in his private diaries, several of which the writer has had access to, gives many interesting details as to the progress made in the building, and even totalled up the number of bricks, &c., brought into the work. The grounds he laid out with great care, and bestowed much attention upon the ornamental lakes, which he stocked plentifully with fish. His diaries give accounts of large catches made by himself and the numerous guests he from time to time entertained. Alas! in a few years the owner of this palatial residence, by the vicissitude of fortune, was compelled to seek asylum in one of the inns of Brecon, the old Bear Hotel in Ship Street, where he died bereft of the bulk of his fortune, but carrying with him to the grave the affectionate regard of the people of Brecon, whose benefactor he was, and whom he diligently represented in the House of Commons. And with his death, his family influence practically died in the town and county, although there are some distant connections still living in England, and elsewhere outside Brecknockshire.



THE ROMAN STONE.

There is (or was) preserved at Pennoyre Mansion one of the finest Roman stones found in this country. It was ploughed up in a field at Battle in 1877, about half a mile from the Roman Camp at Bannium. Its height is 2 feet, and broken length 22 inches. Letter D  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches; N  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. (*See illustration*). The date is suggested as the end of the first or beginning of the second century. Professor Hubner and the Rev. J. Wordsworth suggest the following reading:

DIS. [MANIBUS C JULI]  
CAN [AIDI TINCI]  
NI-FILI [EQ(QUITIS) (ALOE)]  
HISP [ANORUM] VETTON[UM] CIVIUM ROMANORUM JVLIVS  
CLEM[ENS] DOM[ITIUS VALENS HEREDES FECERUNT]  
ANN[ORUM] XX. STIP[ENDIORUM]. III. H[IC SITUS EST.]

For some years, there was a day school at Battle supported by Colonel Watkins, who gave the schoolmaster £20 a year. This sum was augmented by fees amounting to about £8. Subsequently Battle School Board took over the educational affairs of this and a neighbouring parish.

The population here in 1891 was 126, and in 1831 it was 192. Battle is in the rural district of Brecknock, the petty sessional division of Merthyr, and gives the name to the Battle Electoral Division, in which it is placed.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1624.—		William Davies.	1730.—		David Morgan.
1629.—Evan Evans.			1739.—		Jchn Williams.
1662.—		Thomas Herring.	1756.—		Howel Powel.
1685.—		Howel Thomas.	1794.—Thomas Mitchel esq.		Joshua Davies.
1699.—		William Watkins.	1840.—Trustees of late John		
1713.—		Howel Powel.	Browne, esq.		
1720.—		Lewis Jones.	1864.—Doubtful.		Rev. J. Lane Davies.
1725.—		Theophilus Evans.	1904.—The Bishop.		Rev. H. J. Church Jones, M.A., curate of Brecon.

ABERESCIR or ABERYSCIR;

SO called from the Aber or fall of the Escir into the Usk, near which the church is situated, may be written either way, without subjecting the scribe to the imputation of ignorance or inattention, the former is certainly the ancient and classical way of spelling it, but the pronunciation of the present day is with the latter, which in an English dress we would read Aberuskir.<sup>1</sup> Escir is derived from Esgaidd, brisk or nimble, or Esg, what diverges or shoots out; both the smaller and greater rivers of the name uniting at Pontfaen, have their sources on the Epynt hills, and abound as we are informed, with a species of trout whose flesh is red, and resembles in colour and flavour those of the Usk more than the same fish in other small rivers in this county. The church is close upon the western bank, and is dedicated, according to Ecton, to St. Mary, but from the register of Bishop Morgan, otherwise Young, at Abergwili, in 1497, the patron saint, as before observed, was Cynidr or Cnedd, of Llangenith, in Glamorganshire. This church has been already described, it is a miserable little building with a shed at one end, in which the floor within is of earth, and when we saw it, it resembled what the heralds call a *fess wavy*. The pulpit, for instance, may be of a size sufficient to accommodate the minister, but neither the extent of its circumference or the decayed state in which it is in, would suit the author's ease or convenience or promote his devotion. Most of our country churches are less comfortable than the worst rooms or apartments in a gaol, the dungeons and cells excepted, and while our churches are thus permitted to have the appearance and inconveniences of gaols, the inevitable consequence will be that the one will be empty while the others are crowded. True policy consists neither in the punishment or mitigation of the sufferings of offenders, but in the prevention of crimes; and this system cannot be more effectually supported than by a due attention to the morals of the community, and by holding out every proper inducement to that part of the people who are not totally depraved, to habitate themselves to an observance of the duties and ceremonies of religion, which in due time will have their effect upon the most callous and unthinking.

<sup>1</sup> Ecton writes Abrisker or Aber Esgair; if he had stumbled upon Aber Esgaidd he would have been correct as to its ancient name, but Esgair which signifies a long ridge or hill, cannot be applied to a river.



## ANCIENT MONUMENT.

The tombstones in Aberyscir church are few, and most of them broken. On one near the chancel, "—— David Thomas —— descended from Richard Madox lord of Cwmwd, who had issue Thomas, Margaret, —— ob. 1638." (Arms, quarterly, Brychan and Awlach impaling Herbert.) On another, "Howel ap Howel ap Watkin ap Howel ——." According to a MS. in the Harleian collection in the British Museum, the following inscription was found in this church, but it is no longer seen here:—

"HERE *LIETH* RICHARD AP JENKIN AND CECILIA HIS WIFE UPON WHOSE *SOUL*  
GOD HAVE MERCY, AMEN."

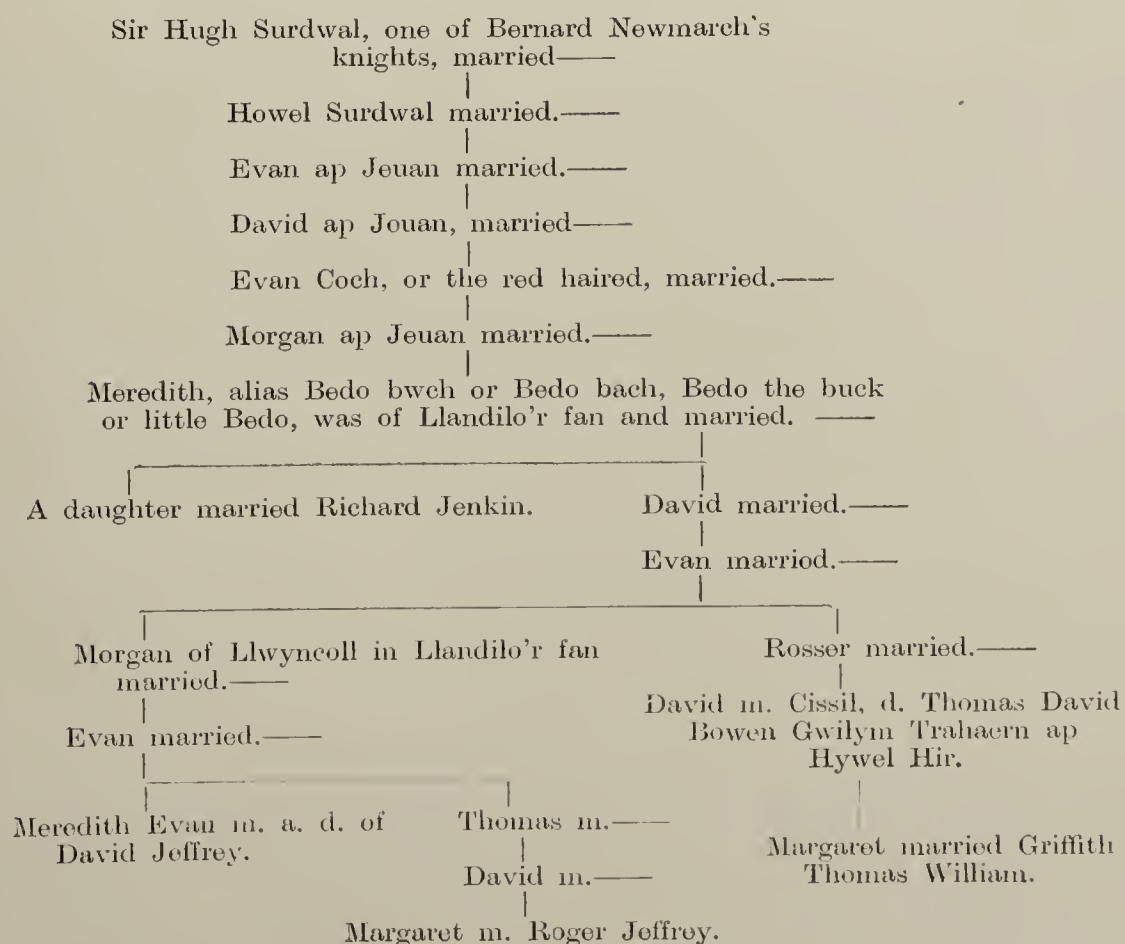
The Sarn Helen, in its progress from Gaer to Neath, here united itself with the Via Julia, and crossed the river Escir a little higher up the stream than the church, from hence it proceeded along the present road, or nearly parallel with it to Aberbran, where it crossed the Usk, pursued the turnpike road to within a few yards of Bettws or Penpont chapel, where the two ways separated and diverged, one south south west to Neath, and the other nearly due west to Caermarthen.

## THE SURDWAL FAMILY.

The mesne manor of Aberyskir, formerly held by knight's service, under the lord of Cantreff-selyff, as well as the fee, in the lands throughout the whole parish, was bestowed by Bernard Newmarch on Sir Hugh Surdwal, or Sir Hugh of the gloomy or solitary vale: this translation is, we fear, not perfectly classical, certainly not literal, but, as we have heard of "pensive plains," we see no objection to *deaf* dales. With the embers of Caerbannau before his eyes and glowing at his door, surrounded by heights, at that time clothed with wood, the Norman must have found himself suddenly restored to his native soil; now, however, the ruthless axe, which has generally denuded the country, has here so far spared the appearance and situation of the mansion, that it has dissipated the gloom without injuring the picture.

The family of Surdwal soon left this parish or changed their surnames after the Welsh manner, so that they cannot be followed. The imperfect pedigree here given, fixes them in Llandilo'r vân in the beginning of the eighteenth century, where they still remain, though their names may now be Evan, Thomas, David, or in short, any other common appellation of the present day. According to Matthew Paris, one of the name of Robert Surdwal or de Surda Valle, accompanied the lord Beaumont in a crusade in the time of Henry the Second; but whether this was an ancestor, a cotemporary or relation of Sir Hugh Surdwal, is not as clear as it is that one of the Welsh house, Hywel Surdwal, was employed with others in the time of Edward the Fourth, to inquire into and certify the pedigree of William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke, upon his advancement to that title and instalment at Windsor. He was one of the Arwydd feirdd, or Heraldic bards of Wales, and flourished, according to Owen, in his *Cambrian Biography*, between 1460 and 1490,<sup>1</sup> but his fame was established long prior to the former æra: he has left several poems still preserved in the principality.

## PEDIGREE OF SURDWAL OF ABERYSIR.



<sup>1</sup> Humphroy Llwyd has a poet of the name of Jeuan ap Hywel Swardwal in this period; if this be not an error, he was the son of the heraldic bard.



In 1711, a tenement in this parish called Tyr Howel Surdwal, together with Tyr gwengad, Tyr veurig, and Clos dan y park, were devised by Rice Jones of Aberyscir, gent., to his eldest son John Jones, with remainders over: this was a branch of a family of the same name settled at Brecon; he bore, Rhys Goch, impaling Williams of Gaer, but how they were connected or what is now become of them, we know not. Though this tenement, called Howel Surdwal's land, seems to place the residence of one of the family near the centre of the parish, the tradition of the country is, that the manor house and residence of the lord always was on the site of the present mansion, now converted into a farmer's dwelling near the Aber. This, together with the demesne and manor, was purchased very early in the seventeenth century, by one of the Boulcots of Brecon, from whom we know not; it continued several years in this family, until upon failure of the male line, it came by intermarriages to the Williamses of the Bulwark in Brecon, the last of whom, Miss Mary Williams, devised this and other tenements in Breconshire to Mrs Hughes of Tregunter, and the Reverend William Wynter. By a friendly partition or division of the property, afterwards agreed to, this fell to Mr Wynter's share, which family lately possessed it, but it has been since sold, and having some very luxuriant and productive meadows on the Usk side, it is considered as a very valuable farm.

The whole of the lands in this parish, up to the Brân, and Cwmgwengad, or rather Cwmgwern y gad, (which has been already explained), another farm in this parish, were sold by Mr Jeffreys of Brecon in 1662 or 1663, to Daniel Wynter of Brecon, gent., with whose descendants it continued in 1800. Those bordering upon the river Usk are estimated at a high annual rent per acre; as we ascend and proceed northwards, the grounds are chiefly arable, the soil deteriorates, and at last terminates in commons and mountains. There are three bridges within this precinct, the bridge over the Escir, west of Battle, called Pont ar Escir, Pont ar fran in the road to Trallong, by whom repaired is doubtful; and Aberbran bridge over the Usk, repaired at the joint expense of the inhabitants of the Hundreds of Devynock and Merthyr.

The advowson of the vicarage was formerly in the priory of Malvern; upon the dissolution it vested in the Crown, by whom it was granted to Richard Price, son of Sir John Price, from whom it came in the same manner as other possessions, before mentioned, to Lord Ashbrook, who sold it. Upon the death of the Rev. John Jones, incumbent in 1792, his curate, the Reverend D. Jones, of Pont ar fran, became intitled to it, but there was no parsonage or glebe attached.

In Pope Nicholas's taxation this living is valued at £5 6s. 8d., but whether by this is meant Llangynidr in the hundred of Crickhowel, or Aberyscir, is not perfectly clear; it should seem that the latter is intended, for Eglwys Iail (another name for Llangynidr) is taxed at £4 6s. 8d., and if Aberyscir is not St. Cenedd this parish is omitted. Its certified value in the king's books is £40 tenths 6s. 7½d. Prox. and Synod. 8s. 9d. archdiaconal procurations 7s. 5d. annually.

The register book commences in 1720, and the vicarage, now endowed with the impropriate tythes, is discharged from the payment of first fruits.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

The living is now a rectory, as it was in 1850, when the church was returned as a mean-looking building possessing no claim to architectural notice. The church was restored in 1860, and a vestry added in 1884; it now contains chancel and nave, with porch and a bell-turret with two bells; there is accommodation for 120 persons. The ancient stone cross alluded to by Jones as missing in his day, appears to have been discovered at the restoration; it is now placed on the floor at the west of the church, near to the wall, behind the door. So far as it is possible to read it, the inscription is "HIC JACET RICHARDVS AP JENKIN ET CECILA UXOR EJUS DAVID ————"; the cross is an ancient one, but there is no trace of date. There is also the remains of an old stone near the pulpit, but nothing can be made of it. A sum of £60 was obtained in 1866 from the Church Building Society on condition that seats were declared free. In 1900 the sum of £120 was obtained from Queen Anne's Bounty, to meet £200 subscriptions, for addition to permanent capital endowment. The living is now returned at £135 net, with a rectory house, built in 1891, and one acre of glebe land.

About 1850 there was, close to the church, a farm of about 35 acres, with a house, barn, and out-buildings, then in a dilapidated state, called "The Parsonage." There are still some ruins of these, now grown over with grass, but whether or not they ever belonged to the church at any time has not been ascertained, although some inquiries have been made.

#### THE INSCRIPTIONS IN CHURCHYARD.

The burial ground is surrounded by a wall, which cannot be said to be in a satisfactory condition. There are numerous burials of the Williamses of Aberyscir Court, and they are commemorated by several substantial monuments. Hannah, wife of Evan Williams, of Aberyskir Court, Esq., died 9 May, 1869; Evan Williams, born 1789, died 1879. Rachel, daughter of Evan Williams, of Aberyskir fawr, died 1846, aged 19; Margaret, another daughter, died 1851, aged 22. Daniel Williams, of Aberyskir, died March 9th, 1847, aged 87; Margaret, his wife, died January 9, 1854, aged 92. Evan Williams, died



April 21, 1826, aged 69. Elizabeth, wife of John Williams, of Abercynrig, born 1798, died December 10, 1878. John Williams, of the same place, and son of Daniel Williams, of Aberyskir, gent., died 1846, aged 54; there were several children, also buried here. Rees Williams, of Glanyskir, in this parish, gent., son of Daniel Williams, of Aberyskir Court, and Margaret his wife, died Sept. 30, 1856, aged 62. Catherine Williams, of Glanyskir, daughter of Daniel Williams and Margaret his wife, died 15th March, 1891, aged 93.

Affixed to the outside wall at the east end of the church are stones to Elizabeth wife of John Jones, gent., who died August 2nd, 1783, aged 81, also of the said John Jones, who died aged 81 on December 10, 1784; also of Watkin, son of John Jones, junr., gent., of Pontarfran, and grandson of the above, who died November 25, 1774, young; and of Margaret Davies, daughter of John Jones, who died August, 1825, aged 81 years. Also of John, eldest son of John Jones of Pontarfran, gent., died March 11, 1797, aged 28; and John Jones, father of above, of Pontarfran, gent., who died 28 June, 1799, aged 62. Ann his wife died May, 1801, aged 56. There is also a broken stone to Griffith Jones, of Aberyskir, gent., died 1789, aged 44, and Elizabeth his daughter, who died 1789, young; and John his son, died May 8, 1859, aged 74.

There is a tomb to the memory of the Rev. David Jones, of Pontarfran, a late rector of the parish, who died 1859, aged 85, and Margaret his wife, who died 1868, aged 74; also stones to William Awbrey, of Vennyfach, died April 2, 1892, aged 66; Rees Price, of Gaer, Parish of St. John, died July 21, 1831, aged 66; to the Powells of Cwmgwengad, Lloegr, and Cusop; Watkins of Llywel (1700—1785); and a very handsome marble monument to the memory of Elizabeth wife of Philip Thomas Williams of Cwmwysk ganol, who died July 1902, aged 26.

There are two very fine yew trees in the churchyard.

#### ABERYSCIR COURT, AND PONTARFRAN.

Near to the church is Aberyscir Court, a handsome residence built in 1837, on the site of an older house, by Evan Williams, Esq., and there are also some very extensive farm buildings belonging to this house, in the grounds of which, on the banks of the Usk, and moated, is what appears to be a keep, probably some part of the ancient mansion of the Surdwals. Aberyscir Court and estate is the property of Rees Williams, Esq., J.P., (late in the Breconshire Volunteers and also the Mounted Infantry, in which he held a commission), having inherited it from his uncle Evan Williams, Esq. For many years the family farmed this extensive property, but of late the grass lands have been let by public auction, and the mansion rented. For several years, it has been in the occupation of Frank Dickinson, Esq., J.P., a son of the late Colonel Dickinson, of Glanhonddu, who married a daughter of Edward Jones, Esq., of Velindre, Llandovery, and by whom he has issue.

Pontarfran, another residence in this parish, the property of Mrs Anne Davies, lady of the manor and patron of the living, was for some years the abode of John Hotchkis, Esq., D.L., J.P., but is now in the occupation of the Misses Evans, daughters of the late Rev. J. J. Evans, rector of Cantref (and related to the Ffrwdgreeh Evanses), who died lately, leaving to his two sons and two daughters a very considerable fortune.

There is an Independent Chapel in the parish, lately rebuilt. This parish is within the Rural District of Brecon, at which town the Parliamentary electors record their votes; it is in the petty sessional division of Merthyr, and the electoral division of Battle. The population in 1891 was 159, and 160 in 1801. Its area is given at 1,918 acres, and rateable value about £1,464.

#### LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1490.—The bishop of St. David's, p.h.v.		Dewros ap Jenkin.	1713.—Wm. Flower of Abercynrig, esq.		William Jeffreys.
1512.—The prior and convent of Malvern.		Thomas Gethin.	1763.—Lord Ashbrook.		Richard Williams.
1530.—		John ap Griffith Peyntor.	1792.—Lord Ashbrook.		Morgan Powel.
1570.—Richard Pryce, esq. of the priory of Brecon.		Morgan ap Thomas.	1827.—		John Jones.
1621.—Thomas Pryce, esq.		Walter David.	1865.—		David Jones.
1630.—Ditto.		William Davies.	1876.—Rev. W. Lewis, vicar of Billingsley, Salop.		Lewis Price Jones.
1684.—John Jeffreys of the priory of Brecon, esq.		Evan Bowen.	1883.—		John Williams, vicar of Trallong.
		Griffith Hattley. <sup>1</sup>	1897.—Mrs. Ann Davies.		Richard Lewis Morgan.
		Thomas Herring.			Joshua Davies.

<sup>1</sup> He died without issue, in 1684, and was buried in Christ's College, in Brecon. During the civil war he was ousted by the propagators of the gospel in Wales, about the year 1651, when the living became vacant for nine years, after which it was restored to him, and he continued in possession of it to the time of his death.



## TRALLWNG, or TRALLONG,

IS the *corsned* or morsel of execration to British etymologists. Richards of Coity, no contemptible authority upon this subject, whatever Goronwy Owen and others may affect to say to the contrary, pronounces it to be "a soft place on the road or elsewhere that travellers may be apt to sink into; a dirty place." He adds that Edward Llwyd supposes it to be only an abbreviation of *Traeth lyn*, i.e., a quagmire. It will not however apply to the situation of this church, or the greater part of this parish, in which there is neither a Traeth, a Llyn, or a Llwnge. Traeth does not imply a particle of sand, but the aggregate or surface of those particles upon the sea shore; the definition therefore of this parish, so far removed from the ocean, must be sought for elsewhere: Tre llon or Trellwyn will not help us; we are therefore inclined to think, from its contiguity to Bannio or Gaer, that the present name is a corruption of Tre'r lleng, *Oppidum legionis*, and that there must have been a *campus æstivus* or summer camp of the second legion of Augustus, at *Twyn y gaer*, a hill so called in this parish, where an artificial mound or barrow is still seen.

### THE ANCIENT CHURCH AND ITS INSCRIPTIONS.

The church, dedicated to Saint David, is situated half way up an ascent from the Usk rising northward, and presenting an aspect to the south, which the greatest part of the parish bears; it is small, but sufficiently large for the use of the parish, the roof is not ceiled. Under the tile are wooden arches or transverse ribs resting upon the side walls, as frequently seen in churches in this country; the pulpit is the very reverse of that at Aberyscir, it takes up too much room, and being placed opposite the window, it obstructs the light, which as usual, is to the clergyman's back while he officiates. On the west is what is called the steeple, in which there is one small bell. The seats belonging to the houses of Penpont and Abercamlais are in the chancel; under one of them, "Here lyeth the body of John Lloyd ——— Lloyd ap Rhys ap Richard fawr, they had issue William, Gwladis, Elizabeth, Margaret, Jonet, Juan and Sarah, he died 14th December, 1623." A MS. enables us to supply the defects, which the ravages of time or accident have here produced; John Lloyd was the son of William Lloyd or Llwyd, the son of Richard Llwyd, the son of David Llwyd (by his second wife), the son of Rhys Llwyd, the son of Rhys of Llwynycntefin, ap Richard Fawr of Slwch and Garreg fawr. Henry Lloyd, a descendant of this John Lloyd, resided in this parish in 1800, but we are totally at a loss to account why the herald should wish to derive this family from Moreiddig, the son of Drymbenog the second brother of Bleddin ap Maenarch, and not from the elder branch. Nearer the wall is another tombstone to the memory of one of this house, John Lloyd, son of William Lloyd, ob. 1756. It should not be omitted, because it is to the credit of the Reverend Thomas Williams of Abercamlais, formerly vicar of Llywel and Llanspyddid, or of those who succeeded him, that he and his wife, Elizabeth the daughter of Henry Penry of Llwynycntefin, are both interred in the churchyard, he died in 1750. Near this tombstone is another, to the memory of Anne the daughter of the Archdeacon Williams of Abercamlais, who died in 1787. The only family of note who have resided in this parish, were Games of Parc, and they only remained there for a short time; John Games (grandson of the first John Games of Aberbrân) who married Wilgiford, the daughter of Sir Edward Awbrey of Tredomen, lived there, as did his widow, after his death, they left issue male and female, consequently the brother of Richard Games or his son Richard Games of Penderin and Llanelly, must have purchased it; for his daughter and heiress Elizabeth, who married Thomas Mansel, brought it into that family, from whom it has descended to Lord Vernon.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH.

The greatest part of the parish is arable land, and without that proportion of wood with which our vales are (or rather were) generally ornamented. Near the eastern boundary the river Brân empties itself into the Usk at Aberbrân, and the Cilieni on the west. The other stream is Cilieni, and on this river is a bridge called Abercilieni bridge, of the liability to repair which doubts have arisen; the inhabitants of the county were once indicted for not attending to its defects, but upon a traverse acquitted, so that it is probable upon the hundreds of Devynock and Merthyr, here divided by this rivulet.

A narrow slang of land on the borders of this river and the Usk, anciently called Bran, and since Aberbrân fach and mill, formerly belonged to the Bishops of St. David's; it was called a manor, though its extent comprehended only a few acres, without a manse upon it, nor would it have been here noticed had it not served to introduce an extract from the statute book of St. David's, dated



10th March, 1379, in the time of Bishop Houghton, in confirmation of our opinion as to the original name Llanddew, which did not occur while that parish was under review. Among the possessions of the prelates of the see in that statute are "*Manerium exile de Braan tantum pro agricultura et Manerium de Landewy in partibus Brecon;*" and among the chattels which every bishop was to transmit to his successor were "*In Manerio de Braan unam carucam et octo boves in Manerio Landewy 2 carucas et 16 boves.*" The little manor of Braan (as it is here called) was sold about 1800 to Mr. Williams of Penpont for the redemption of the land tax charged upon the episcopal possessions in Breconshire.

This is a perpetual augmented curacy, to which the prebendary of the same name in the college church of Brecon nominates. It has now neither parsonage or glebe, although in 1711 the churchwardens presented that the former was in decay; no attention was paid to their complaint, and the consequence was that the building tumbled down, and its site is at this time scarcely known.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

The living, now a vicarage, has received several augmentations by lot from Queen Anne's Bounty, viz., 1747, £200; 1763, £200; 1802, £200; 1827, £200. The value as given in the Clergy List is £250 net, without residence, but with half an acre of glebe. In 1850 the church was described as a plain ancient edifice about 120 feet long by 20 broad, and containing 38 pews, twelve of which were free. This building was restored in 1861, and new roofed in 1885; it is composed of chancel and nave, and has accommodation for 115 persons. There is but one bell. The Registers date from 1752.

#### CANON WALTER'S FAMILY.

There are some service books in the church dated 1819, given by the late Rev. John Williams of Abercamlais, and also several older books not now in use. A portion of the West End is railed off and used as a vestry. There is a fire-place here, and formerly this part of the church was the village schoolroom; it now contains a very large oak chest and the parish bier dated 1792.

In the chancel is a marble tablet to the memory of Anne wife of Watkin Walters of this parish who was born August 2nd 1791 and died January 10th, 1844, and also of the said Watkin Walters, born April 10, 1793, and died February 10, 1860. This was erected by their son, the Rev. Thomas Walters, D.D., vicar of Llansamlet, Canon of St. David's, and a Justice of the Peace for Breconshire; who was justly celebrated as a zealous clergyman and an eloquent preacher. He died on August 17, 1892, aged 69. His son went into the church and became Vicar of St. David's, Carmarthen. This family is still represented in the parish of Trallong.

#### THE WILLIAMSES OF ABERCAMLAIS.

The churchyard, which appears to be over planted with trees, requires some attention from the parish authorities. This was formerly the burying place of the Williamses of Abercamlais. The inscriptions upon their monuments are to the memory of Elizabeth, daughter John Williams, LL.B., of Abercamlais, and Ann his wife, who died May 26, 1787, aged 11; Ann, eldest daughter of the same, who became archdeacon of Cardigan, who died March 11, 1838, aged 66; also Sarah, second daughter, who died March 2nd, 1839, aged 65; Ann, wife of Archdeacon Williams, died Sept. 15, 1812, aged 68; the Rev. John Williams, the archdeacon, who was also Canon of St. David's, died March 8, 1814, aged 68. Also of John Phillips, Esq., of Haverford, Pembrokeshire, who died at Abercamlais, 4th December, 1835, aged 55. And of Rev. John Williams, of Abercamlais, Canon of St. David's, who died October 29, 1841, aged 66; Rev. Thomas Williams, vicar of Llanspydded and Llywel, who died March 9th, 1750, aged 69; Elizabeth, widow of the above, and daughter of Hugh Penry, Esq., of Llwynycntefn, who died May 6, 1760, aged 82 years; and of John Penry Williams, Esq., who died March 4, 1861, aged 36.

At the west end of the church, is the old vicarage house, now occupied as a cottage; the new house wherein the Vicar is located is large and commodious, but this is not the property of the church. The living is set down as being worth 250*l* net, with about half an acre of glebe.

There was a day school in connection with the church as far back as 1850, and still continues, subject to the changes established by law; the building, with master's house, is near to the church.

#### THE OGHAM STONE.

Upon the re-building of the church, or about 1856, a stone was found at the side of one of the windows of the old church, bearing an inscription with a cross and a series of Oghamic characters on one of its edges. The inscription had been built inwards, and consequently its existence was unknown



until thus suddenly brought to light. One end of the stone had been broken off, and some of the Ogham letters injured, but on the whole it was in an excellent state of preservation. In the Cambrian Archæological Society's records for 1862, it is stated that the stone had been earefully placed within the church in that part at the west end sereened off as a vestry. In the same work (1872, page 389), it is mentioned that the stone was moved by the Rev. Garnons Williams to his grounds at Abereamlais for the convenience of the members of the Cambrian Association, who visited the Brecon meeting in 1872. The stone is about 6 feet long and 18 inches wide at the upper part, but tapering down to a point at the lower, uniformly about 6 inches thick, and is from one of the hardest beds of the Old Red or Silurian series. The cross within a circle, with the lower limb extending downwards to about the length of the cross itself, is formed of double fine ineised lines cut with great precision, and still quite sharp, as is also the inscription—

CVNOCENNI FILIVS  
CVNOCENI Hic Jaeit.

The identical name of the father and son does not appear to occur in the Welsh records, but the late Rev. H. L. Jones considered it to be connected with CYNOG, who is said to have met his death at Merthyr Cynog, a few miles off. The bilingual character of the stone renders it of great interest with reference to the question of the origin and date of the Ogham letters. The stone is now fixed to the right hand wall of the porch, which is a large structure with seats.

There used to be, on a hill on the eastern extremity of the parish, the remains of a British fortification, called Twyn-y-gaer, overlooking the Usk, on the other side of which was another of the same appellation, crowning a hill in the parish of Llanspyddid.

The Calvinistic Methodists have had a ehapel here for about 60 years.

It is said, but with what authority we cannot learn, that Owain Iolo Gôch was buried in a field in this parish, which used to bear his name; and that T. J. Llewelyn Prichard, the author of *Twm Shon Catti*, was born in the parish of Trallong.

The area of the parish is about 3,437 acres, and its rateable value £2,221; the population in 1901 was 205.

#### LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1497.—Tho Bishop of St. David's.		Wm. Edmund.	1699.—		Jamos Woodlar, curato.
1523.—		Hugh Brecknoc. <sup>1</sup>	1703.—		Peregrine Stockes, curate.
1554.—		John Morgan.	1706.—		Thomas Williams, curate.
		John ap Hywel Gwyn, pro-	1778.—		Rice Jones, curate.
		bendary.	1731.—The Bishop of St. David's.		Thomas Williams, prebendary.
1562.—Tho bishop of St. David's.		John Butler, prebendary.	1736.—Ditto.		John Williams curate and pre-
1570.—Ditto.		Henry Aldriche, prebendary.			bendary.
1594.—Ditto.		Thomas Williams, prebendary.			John Williams, curate.
		Robert Brooko, prebendary.	1780.—The bishop of St. David's.		Benjamin Newton, prebendary
1636.—Ditto.		David Evans, curate.	1780.—Ditto.		John Williams, canon of St.
1665.—		Philip Lewis, curate.			David's.
1678.—		Edward Wood, curate.	1815.—Ditto.		Walter Williams.
1682.—		Thomas Morgan, curate.	1859.—Ditto.		John Harries.
1687.—		Thomas Morgan, curate.	1871.—Ditto.		John Williams.
1694.—		James Harris, curato.			

This curacy was vacant for several years during tho civil wars. Temp. Charles I.

## LLANVIHANGEL NANT BRAN.

ST. Michael's Brânbrook or St. Michael's on the brook of Brân, is situated in latitude 52 5, longitude 3 28. The church is in the middle of a small village in a narrow vale, and not far from the source of the river; and here again we are doomed to enter a miserably dilapidated and gloomy edifice, the floor of earth and uneven, the tile generally in bad repair, the chancel small and made still smaller and more inconvenient by having an old decayed eoffer thrust into it, the

<sup>1</sup> On the resignation of Wm. Edmund. This is the entry in the bishop's register, but it was probably Hugh or Hywel of Brecknock.



bells cracked, the benches—(for there are only two seats in the church and they hardly deserve the name), are irregularly placed, and describe all sorts of geometrical angles and figures except a parâllelogram.

## A ROMAN CATHOLIC ENDOWMENT.

There is not in the church or church-yard even one inscription or tombstone which can interest the moralist or genealogist, though we find in a MS. in the British Museum that the following was formerly seen here,

“Subtus jacet Paulus Briggs, Omni major titulo; Nantbrania Silurum natus, at oriundus Whistonensi Ex Aula majori Brigantium, familia Tam nobili quam honesta Obiit 18 die Maii, Anno Ætatis 46, salutis 1695. I quæro lector An non sit lucrum mori Cum moriens vitam Dat et accipit.”

What inducement this Yorkshire family had to settle in Llanvihangel nant bran we know not; Paul Briggs left issue Frances, an only daughter and heiress, who married Jeffrey Jeffreys of the Llywel family; he bore, argent, three inescutcheons, charged with a bend of first, crest on a wreath of his colours, and a helmet befitting his degree, a hand and arm vambraced proper, holding a bow and arrow, the bow gules, stringed sable, the arrow argent. In this parish is a tenement called Pwll y llacca belonging to Jesus College at Oxford, now let at 20*l.* per annum, though worth considerably more; this was undoubtedly part of the possessions of Hugh Price, the founder, or purchased with his money, for the benefit of the college. The vale runs from north east to south west about four miles in length, and on the summits on each side are extensive sheep walks, on which the farmers principally depend for their rents; and in this parish also is another small tenement called Bola maen, the rent of which is paid annually to the Roman Catholic minister officiating at Brecon, how or by whom given is unknown.

This is a perpetual curacy, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and annexed to or consolidated with the adjoining parish of Llandilo'r fan, to which Mr. Walter Jeffreys of Brecon nominates; it had formerly a parsonage house, but it was suffered to fall into decay, and fell down during the commotions in the time of Charles the First. The register book commences in 1749.

## LATER PARTICULARS.

Sir Stephen Glynne appears to have visited the church when he came to Breconshire. His description is thus given: “This church, in a remote and picturesque valley, but on rising ground, presents as lamentable an appearance as can be conceived. It is a rude building, was always devoid of architectural grace, and is in a state of neglect and dilapidation which will soon render it untenable. The plan is a nave and chancel without architectural distinction, and a western tower. The walls are whitewashed externally. The windows are generally mauled or modern, but that on the east end is a square-headed perpendicular one of two lights, cinquefoiled, and one at the south-east has two trefoiled lights. There is a rude porch on the south, with plain, pointed doorways. The tower is low, massive, and very rough, without buttresses or stringcourse, except one at the base. At the south-east is a square turret with slit lights; the tower has a low pointed roof of tiles, the few openings are plain slits, except the belfry windows on the north and east, which are square-headed, and of two lights. The tower is open from the ground to the roof, without floors; has no bell, and opens to the nave by a plain, pointed door. Within, the church has a most wretched appearance. The roof is full of holes, and open to the tiles, but has arched timbers with foliation above. There is a strange rude gallery at the west end, enclosed like a room. The floor is only partly paved; the benches, however, are all open. There is a priest's door on the south of the chancel. The altar is a small confined enclosure of rails, curiously entered by a high, arched doorway; there is a square opening in the south wall near the altar; near the priest's door is a stoup, and a kind of rail parts off the chancel. The font has a small octagonal bowl on a stem.” Such was the state of the church in 1865.

Some efforts were made, from time to time, to improve the state of the building, but it was not until 1882 that a restoration was effected, at a cost of £1,300, of which sum the Church Building Society gave £50. Amongst the principal subscribers to this purpose was Captain de Winton of Walsworth Hall, Gloucester, a brother of the late Archdeacon de Winton, who gave £500 towards restoring this and Llandilo'r fan. The tower has one bell, and there are 143 sittings in the church.

The living is now a vicarage of the net value of £220, inclusive of Llandeilorfan, with which it is held. Between 1742 and 1804, the living was augmented by £600 from Queen Anne's Bounty.

The population of the parish in 1901 was 292; in 1891, 317, and in 1801, 518. Its rateable value is given at £2,485, and area 9,161 acres. It is situated in Brecknock Rural District, Merthyr Petty Sessional division, and Llandeilo'r fan Electoral division. The whole district is devoted to agricultural pursuits, and the population, in the majority of cases, speak English and Welsh, but the children generally favour English.

A British Camp, “Clawdd” (an embankment) is marked on the ordnance map, near the county boundary.



## LLANDEILO'R FAN.

AS the former parish, united to this, is described to be dedicated to Saint Michael on the Brân, so this commemorates the memory of Saint Teilaw upon a brook called Mawen, changing the initial and abbreviated into fân or vâ, according to the Welsh orthography.<sup>1</sup> Teilaw, Teiliaw or Teilo, was one of the early bishops of the see of Llandaff and successor of Saint Dubricius. His good works, his fame, and his piety were not confined within his own diocese, but were known and felt throughout the whole of South Wales, where many churches bear his name. Cressy says, that when the *yellow plague* infested this kingdom, he went into remote parts, but returned with his companions after it had ceased, and died in his own country on the fifth day before the ides of February, in the year 519. "After he was dead, the inhabitants of three several places contended earnestly which of them should enjoy his body, those of *Pennalum*, where his ancestors had been buried, those of Lantilio vaur, where he dyed, and those of Llandaff, among whom he had been bishop: when therefore no agreement could be made amongst them, there appeared presently three bodies so like to one another, *that three eggs could not more perfectly resemble*, so each of those people took one of them so by that means the controversy ended;" but (says Cressy, speaking of bishop Godwyn), that author, in favour of his own church of Llandaff, adds, "that by frequent miracles at his tomb, it appeared that the inhabitants of Landaff possessed the true body." We are not concerned for Landaff or Pennalum, but on the part of Llandilo vawr, we object to this transaction, as a fraud upon them, and with this protestation, we return to his church in Breconshire, situated near the conflux or *aberoedd* of three brooks, the Mawen, the Ethrym, and Cilieni, the latter of which takes the name from thenceforward to its fall into the Usk. There is nothing interesting in this fabric, which is in somewhat better repair than Llanvihangel, nor does this parish furnish matter for the historian or the antiquary. Being considerably higher than the vale of Usk, the soil is poorer and the atmosphere colder. The right of common here, as in most other places adjoining the hills, is the privilege to which the farmer annexes the greatest value. The north western extremity of this parish, adjoining the hundred of Builth, was formerly called Monksland or Tyr yr Abad, and was parcel of the possessions of the abbey of Strata Florida in Caerdiganshire. In this tract in 1800, were found about twenty pieces of silver coin, of Edward the First, wrapped up, and either lost or concealed in a bog. There is one stone bridge within this district, called Pontrhyd y cwm, repaired by the inhabitants.

Mr. Walter Jeffreys of Brecon nominates to the curacy of this parish, united with that of Llanvihangel nant bran, which, in the time of Queen Anne, were certified to be of the annual value of nine pounds, and are not in charge in the king's book. The register book commences in 1760.

### LATER PARTICULARS.

The population of this parish in 1901 was 300; in 1891, 382, having decreased since 1800 from 545. Its area is given as 10,491 acres, of which much is mountain, and its approximate rateable value is £2,179. Llandeilo'r fan is in the Brecknock Rural District, and Defynock Petty Sessional Division, and gives its name to the Llandilo'r fan Electoral Division, in which it is placed.

There are two Calvinistic Methodist Chapels in the parish.

Llandeilo'r fan, then called Llangurnart, was "restored to God" in perpetual consecration, by Aust, King of Brecknock, one of the witnesses being Bishop Cadoceus (A.D. 566), according to *Liber Landavensis*. And during the Commonwealth, the living was endowed with £40 per annum out of the sequestered rectory of Merthyr Cynog, which arrangement, however, ceased at the time of the Restoration. The church, which now consists of chancel, nave, and a belfry with one bell, was in 1875 restored by subscription at a cost of £800.

The chancel contains several monuments to the Lloyds of Aberllech, to one of the Bevans, formerly of the Priory House, Brecon, which family still holds property in this parish; and to the Jones family of Velindre, one of whom, the late Colonel D. E. Jones, was of the Brecknockshire Militia.

Richard David, who was instituted to the living of this parish in 1580, is commemorated by a stone dated 1614; the inscription is cut around the stone, up the centre of which is carved a floreated cross. At present this monument is affixed to a buttress at the west end, but its original site was no doubt inside the building.

<sup>1</sup> Some have supposed that the name of this parish is Llandilo fan, Saint Teilaw the lesser, to distinguish it from Llandeilo fawr in Carmarthenshire, the greater Saint Teilaw's, but the evidence (if necessary) of such a man as Moses Williams, one of the most learned *Britons* of his day, is conclusive. In the register book of Devynock, while he was vicar of that parish, is the following entry. "*Siwan Morgan de Nant y Sebon in Llan Deilo ar Fawen, sepulta est æt. 96, 26 Octobris. 1726.*" We have also many other documents in which it is thus written.



The churchyard has several fine yews, and the graves are very numerous, and many of them old; but we did not notice anything which called for special mention.

The church is well lighted with nine windows; and the roof appears to possess much of the ancient timber. Some portion of what may have been a rood screen remains. There is no porch and the entrance is from the south. The floor is plain flagged, but the chancel is tiled; the walls plastered. A holy water stoup is fixed inside near the entrance.

Between 1732 and 1794 the parish received £600 from Queen Anne's Bounty, and in 1816, £1,000 as a Parliamentary grant, and the living is now set down as worth £200 a year, with Llanvihangel nant bran. The Registers now in use are dated 1809 and 1813 respectively.

There are two elementary schools providing accommodation for 90 children.

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1573.—		Sir Rhys ap Harry.	1735.—		John Lewis.
1580.—		Richard David.	1739.—		Penry Bailey.
1586.—		Sir Robert.	1740.—	The bishop of St. David's.	Thomas Williams.
1639.—		Evan David.	1759.—	John Jeffreys, esq.	David Griffiths.
1644.—		Christopher Williams.	1805.—		R. Jenkins.
1662.—		Evan Watkin (died 1689).	1813.—		J. D. Morgan.
1694.—		Lewis Powel.	1851.—		William Winstone.
1707.—		John Jones.	1871.—		Bickerton A. Edwards, M.A.
1718.—		Edward Jones.	1878.—		J. J. Powell, B.A.
1722.—		Samuel Jones.	1890.—	Trustees of Roger Jeffreys Powell.	Philip Morgan.
1725.—		Lowis Lewis.			

## TYR YR ABAD, or THE ABBOT'S LAND.

THIS parish, commonly called Tyr Abot, otherwise Newchurch, otherwise Llandulas, and sometimes Aberdulas, is situated at the western extremity of the county of Brecknock, and adjoins Carmarthenshire: the whole of it, together with parts of those adjacent, were granted by Rhys ap Griffith, prince of South Wales, to the monastery of Ystradfflur or Strata Florida in Caerdiganshire, founded by him in the year 1164: the document by which they are conferred upon that house is preserved in the *Monasticon*, but the names of places are dreadfully mangled and disfigured by the monk who copied the original grant.

From the names of places, with some difficulty reducible into Welsh, we find that the possessions of the monastery of Strata Florida comprehended Cwmytoddwr in Radnorshire, and all the lands between Towy and Elan to the borders of North Wales, Llanwrthwl, part of Llanavan vawr, the whole of Llanvihangel Abergwessin, Llanddewi Abergwessin and Llanwrtyd, part of Llangammarch, crossing the Irvon at the fall of the Camddwr, the whole of the present parish of Tyr yr Abad and part of Llandilo'r fan in Breconshire; but much of this territory was lost, either in consequence of intestine commotions or by exchange, so that only a comparatively small number of acres remained on the South of the Irvon, and on the borders of Caermarthenshire. These not being worth the attention of Sir John Pryce, continued with the crown from the time of the dissolution of religious houses until Edward the Sixth, in the sixth year of his reign, granted nearly the whole of this tract, (demised to John Lewis of Harpton, esq.) by the description of the "Grange of *Haberdoneth*," to William, earl of Pembroke and William Clerk, in fee, to hold as tenants in capite.<sup>1</sup> Though this conveyance seems intended for the benefit of the grantees, it does not appear that they took possession under it; or at least part of it was reserved, for by a deed dated in 1588, Queen Elizabeth demised to Edward Wymark and his heirs for ever, lands, called Tyr Glandilas, Kaer Kerdill, (perhaps Cae'r cenfydd) parcel of the *Grange of Aberdeonyth*, abutting certain lands called Pell Borro<sup>2</sup> and Llidiade reollydd (Llydiad yr heolydd), on the north, and certain lands called Keven ycoly

<sup>1</sup> Records in the Augmentation Office.

<sup>2</sup> Pwll berw the watercress pool; Aberberwbwll is the name of a farm in this parish, not far from the confines of Caermarthenshire.



(Cefn Ioli), on the west, to land called Pant y broynssion, and the river Nant y chure on the south, and to Blan hijrgoome, (Blaenhîrgwm) on the east, to be holden as of the manor of East Greenwich in socage, and not by knight's service, rendering a small annual rent. Wymark, by deed, conveyed his interest to John Lewis of Old Radnor: one of the descendants of this Lewis of Harpton, his great grand-daughter, Margaret, married John Gwyn of Llanelwedd, and their son, David Gwyn, married another of the same family; by these marriages, the estates came to the Gwyns of Ty mawr, and now of Glanbran: Sackville Gwynne of the latter place, possessed the whole parish, as three or four of his ancestors had done before him.

#### SACKVILLE GWYNNE OF GLANBRAN.

The situation of the old church is not known, but we apprehend that by the "Rhayader chapel to Llangammarch" of Ecton, corruptly for Rhandir, the boundary, was meant the antient fabric, situate on the borders of Caermarthenshire. The present church is in latitude 52 10, longitude 3 34, and was built in 1716, by Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, esq., who gave the estate to the present (1800) branch of the family, and who also in 1726, upon Queen Anne's bounty being extended to it, added two hundred pounds more, and charged his lands in this parish with the payment of twenty pounds annually to the minister officiating in the church. It is a small edifice, but fully sufficient for the size of the parish, consisting only of seventeen or eighteen farms, in the most mountainous part of the county. The parishioners and the clerygman of the parish claimed a right of exemption from episcopal jurisdiction and visitation, a privilege by which (to use an Irish phrase) they would have gained a loss if they could have established it. They, however, very prudently did not insist upon it too strenuously, and proved wills and took out letters of administration from the register office of Brecon; the clergy exhibited their nominations to the curacy at visitations there, and they submitted to return a warden to appear as others at Brecon, and lodged a transcript of the register book in the proper office. If this had not been done, the consequence would have been, that as there was no parsonage, or indeed any other decent residence for a clergyman, as there was no fund raised, or which perhaps could have been legally recovered for the purpose of repairs, and as it was no longer likely to continue the burying place of the family of Glanbran, in another century inquiries may or might have been made as to the situation of the present church, and "the sad historian of the pensive plain" might have found some difficulty in pointing out the spot whereon it stood.

In the chancel are the following inscriptions:—

*Hæc Ædes dicta ecclesia sive capella nova de Tir Abbat extructa fuit impensis Sackville Gwynne de Glanbran armigeri; fundatoris, A.D. 1716, a quo CC. quibus additæ erant CC. aliæ ex beneficentia Reginæ Annæ dota fuit in perpetuum: Curavit incipe fundator ut a reverendo admonum in Christo patre Ricardo Espiscopo Menevensi in puræ religionis culta Deo Opt. Max. solenni more dedicaretur 26 die mensis Augusti A.D. 1726."*

#### S. M.

Near this place lyeth the body of Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, in the county of Carmarthen, esq., a gentleman not more distinguished by a lineal descent from the most ancient of the British kings, than ennobled by his own personal virtues and intrinsic merits. Viewed in a moral light, he was inflexibly just, upright and sincere; in his civil character, equally a loyal subject and a zealous patriot; in a religious respect exemplary, pious and diffusively charitable; his affection to the Church of England and to the cause of pure christianity, lives in this sacred place, built entirely at his own expense, and for ever endowed by him jointly with the bounty of Queen Anne; in his private conduct, regular without austerity, easy without affectation, and cheerful without levity.

As an economist, discreet;  
As a master, kind;  
As a neighbour, obliging;  
As a friend, faithful;  
As a relation, affectionate;

Possessed of every useful, and adorned with every amiable, quality, he died a bachelor, the 9th day of April, 1734, in the 64th year of his age. In grateful regard to whose memory, this monument was erected by Roderick Gwynne of Glanbran, esq., second son of Howel Gwynne of Brynyoyo, in the county of Brecon, esq., cousin to the said Sackville Gwynne, Esq.

Underneath lie interred the remains of Catherine, wife of Sackville Gwynne of Glanbrano, in the county of Caermarthen, esq., who departed this life the 28th day of December, 1787, aged 43 years.

The above named Roderick Gwynne and his eldest son, Sackville, the husband of Catherine Gwynne, are also buried here.

#### A ROMAN ROAD.

The Roman road, which might with propriety be termed another branch of the Via Helena or Via Leona, as it led from Caerfyrddin to Caerlleon Gawr or Chester, ran through this parish and over the common called Llwydlo fach. Though no longer visible, tradition, however, preserved the recollection of it until the beginning of the 18th century; or at least several old persons used to assert that they heard their parents say they had seen it and pointed out its tract. In 1800 the inhabitants, owing to a disagreement about their rents with their former landlord, were so completely changed, that it was vain to inquire for it from them; a farm in this parish, through which it



passed, is called Sarn y Cyrtieu. Sarn is a hard stony road or causeway, and was the appellation by which the Britons always described the Roman military ways; Cyrtieu is the plural of Cwrt Cwrdd, to meet, or substantively a meeting or assembly, for the *t* and the *dd* have frequently changed places, and are written indiscriminately, as Ymlat for Ymladd. The Cwrdd is now always a religious assembly, and the Cwrt is used for a fold or a farm yard, as well as a court of justice.

## SUPPOSED COURT OF JUSTICE.

Llwydlo fach is a wet boggy and bare common in this parish, over which passes the road from Llandovery to Builth: different are the opinions as to the definition or meaning of Llwydlo, some derive it from Llwyd le, a bare place or spot, which is certainly sufficiently descriptive of this bleak and unproductive tract, where,

Far as the eye can reach no tree is seen,  
Earth clad in russet, scorns the lively green.

In confirmation of this, they shew a waste of the same appearance and name in the high lands in Llanelly, in the hundred of Crickhowel, others say Llwydlo is Ludlow Welshified, and that a court was formerly held here, by deputation under the president and council of the marches.

We have been informed, writes Jones, by a person now living, that his father, about eighty years ago, copied this inscription upon a brass plate, theretofore affixed over the door of a public house on the common,

1540, 31 H. 8.  
*Fiat Justitia ruat mundus.* Sir John Gower.

This certainly indicates, though not conclusively, that this place was at one time the seat of justice, though we are ignorant of the authority or nature of the court, yet upon the other hand, we are not aware that history will furnish us with any instances of a delegation of their power by the court of the marches, and the period is not so distant, if such had been held here, as to have totally destroyed every trace of the proceedings, the nature of the causes or questions decided, and the names of those employed here, or appointed for the administration of justice. Upon the whole we cannot help thinking that the old public house, situated upon the boundary line, so that two persons might enter the door, and as they frequently did, as it is said, to drink and converse together, though sitting in different counties, was the place where the magistrates of Caermarthenshire and Breconshire met to decide differences between the borderers, and that from the concourse of people generally attending on these occasions, the house, as well as the common, took its name (if it did at all) from a supposed resemblance to the court of Ludlow; these meetings of the magistrates, indeed, continued to be held here, until the beginning of the last century, when the publican having lost or removed the plate, substituted the following Latin phrase in its stead, which, being written or painted on a board, composed of the service or wych tree, produced the Welsh satirical lines from a wit, as he passed by:

*Festina lente paulisper,  
Siste Viatur;  
Cor delassatum,  
Pocula plena levant.*

Pwy oedd y dyn ysgymyn,  
A ddododd ar bron cerdin,  
Ar ben Llwydlo, llwm yw'r lle mor llydan.  
Eiriau Lladin.

What foolish wight,  
On wych did write,  
To make the people staro,  
A Latin phras  
In such a placo  
As Llwydlo bloak and baro.

The landlord attempted a reply, retorting the poverty and barrenness of the country at Aber-gwessin, the residence of the supposed poet, but the composition had neither point or poetry in it.

At a place called Pyllau Da Probert, part of a tenement called Trelâth, nature, as a compensation for the barrenness of the surface of the soil, and in compassion to the inhabitants, who were occasionally affected by a malady engendered by poverty and filth, caused a well to flow strongly saturated with sulphur similar to that at Llanwrtyd, but this, like many other of her bounties, is overlooked.

The nomination to this augmented curacy, is in Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, esq.; it is mentioned in the return to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, but as that was made prior to the augmentation, it was then certified to be of no value; the register book commences in 1726, But no transcripts of it are yet brought into the office; the curacy is of course not in charge.

## LATER PARTICULARS.

The curacy of Tyr-abad has received the following benefactions and augmentations: 1725, Sackville Gwynne's rent-charge of £10 per annum; 1726, £200 to meet benefactions; 1771 by lot, £200; 1793, £200; 1813, £200; 1824, £200; 1828, £200. No incumbent has been appointed since about 1860, the endowments being too small; it has therefore been held as a curacy by some of the neighbouring clergy.



The church, situated some four miles from Llanwrtyd railway station, is a building without ornamentation. Some repairs are stated to have been made to the edifice in 1871, costing £200, but dilapidations are apparent, due probably to the damp within and the storms without. The church is entered through a porch and west door, which superseded a doorway formerly on the north. Besides the Gwynne monuments, already quoted, there is nothing worth recording here. The cemetery presents a miserable appearance, and there is a custom here of paving the graves with cobbles and covering the stones with white-wash. In another part of the county this practice is varied, and the grave-stones are coloured black.

There are twenty voters in this parish, and the population was 88 in 1901. The area is 3486 acres, and the rateable value £579. It is in the Builth Poor Law Union, and in the Llanwrtyd petty sessional division; the district is mountainous, and is on the Carmarthenshire boundary.

The living is a vicarage in the gift of Messrs. Jones and Hill of Worcester, and worth £54 net.

There is a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, and a public elementary school with accommodation for 40.

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1726.—Sackville Gwynno, esq.		Theophilus Evans. <sup>1</sup>			Thomas Rogers.
1739.—Roderick Gwynne, esq.		Joshua Thomas. <sup>2</sup>	— Trustees of late J. Jones		J. Westley Rees.
Ditto.		Thomas Davies.	Esq., Worcester.		O. Lloyd Isaac.
1792.—Sackville Gwynne, esq.		Thomas Morgan.			B. Williams.
		Rees Williams.			W. Tudor Thomas.

} Curates  
in charge.

## LLANWRTYD, or LLAN WRTH Y RHYD.

THE church by the ford, or, as a church in a similar situation in Herefordshire, Byford, is so called, because it is situated on an eminence near the bank of the river Irvon, where there was formerly a ford, over which there is now a bridge: this is a parochial church or chapel appendant to the vicarage of Llangammarch, and is dedicated, according to Ecton, to Saint David. There is nothing deserving notice in this miserable fabric, unless it be an inscription on the wall, to the memory of an old woman of the name of Jones, who, with the cautious prudence of a tradeswoman, and as if she were again about to *open shop*, informs us, she was heretofore of No. 27, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. There is no table of benefactions hung up here, but eight pounds a year were given by the will of the above Mrs. Jones, and paid to a schoolmaster, who teaches poor children to read and write. Many of the graves in this churchyard, as well as in Llangammarch, instead of "heaving in mouldering heaps," are paved like the streets of a town, with river stones, kept together by kerb stones on the ends and sides, which resemble coffins in their outlines or shape.

Not far from the church is an ancient mansion called Dinas, which has been in the possession of a family of the name of Lloyd, for several generations; they are undoubtedly descended from Rees Lloyd, who married Jane, the daughter of Sir William Herbert of Colbrook, eldest son of Thomas Lloyd, lord lieutenant of Breconshire, and half brother of John Lloyd of Porthcrwys, whose effigy is in Builth church. Rees Lloyd, one of the descendants of the first named Rees Lloyd, lived in Llanwrtyd in Edward Llwyd's time, and sold a great part of the paternal estate in Llanddewi Aber-gwessin. In 1670, there were two brothers of this family of the same name, who were called Rees Lloyd David, the elder, and Rees Lloyd David, the younger, a circumstance not uncommon in Wales, but in general they are described not by their ages, but their sizes, as Rees Lloyd fwya, and Rees Lloyd leia, Rees Lloyd the greater or taller and Rees Lloyd the lesser or shorter. The present (1900) possessor of this mansion (of whose early history, notwithstanding its princely appellation we are entirely ignorant) is John Lloyd of Brecknock, esq., late captain of the Manship East Indiaman, and eldest son of

<sup>1</sup> He was the first minister who officiated here and preached the consecration sermon, but he held the curacy for a very short time; who succeeded him we know not, the reader will hear more of him when we come to Llangammarch.

<sup>2</sup> He exhibited his licence to Tyr abot, at a visitation held in 1743, and again in 1751.



Rees Lloyd, gentleman, who lived at Dinas, and died in 1785. The house is pleasantly situated, being upon an eminence, yet protected from the storm, which is very material in this generally bare and cold country; on the north, and within a few yards of it, rises a nearly precipitous, but beautiful knoll, whose summit (to borrow the tourist's *courtly* phrase) is capped with feathering wood, the country indeed from hence upwards, for two or three miles on the sides of the narrow vale of Irvon, is romantic and picturesque beyond description, and is by no means deficient in this necessary ornament; but one half, if not two parts out of three of the parish, consist of hills and commons. On the former are depastured sheep of small size, the flavour of whose flesh, equals, if it does not excel any in the kingdom, if not in the universe. The commons are boggy turbaries, from whence they dig peat or turf, the only fuel used in this part of the country, and in the summer a few ponies and small cattle feed upon the short and scanty herbage they produce.

## DISCOVERY OF THE WELLS.

About one mile below Dinas, and on a different side of the Irvon is Dôl y coed, once the residence of a family of the name of Jones, now a public house, to which company resort in the summer season for the benefit of the water of a well called Ffynnon drewlyd, or the stinking well; it was discovered in 1732 by the Reverend Theophilus Evans, formerly vicar of Llangamarch, who, in 1738 or 1739, gives the following account of it, in a letter to the editor of the *St. James's Chronicle*. After explaining the meaning of the Welsh name, as above, he proceeds to say, that "it has much the same gusto as a gun newly discharged. It undoubtedly runs over a rich bed of sulphur, being strongly impregnated therewith, and has all the properties of sulphur in a higher perfection, as being distilled from it by a natural chemistry, which herein exceeds that of art. In a word, it is a noble tincture of sulphur, concocted and perfected in the bowels of the earth, which no art of man can imitate; it drinks as soft as milk, and is not at all nauseous<sup>1</sup> but is generally grateful to the taste.

"It was discovered in the year 1732, in the following manner: the writer hereof being then almost worn out by a radicated scurvy, of many years continuance, and very near a leprosy, so that his blood and juices were all tainted, was casually informed of this then reputed venomous spring; his curiosity led him that way, which by the smell, he could easily find out without a guide. He sat on the brink of it a long time, dubious what to do; as he was thus musing and revolving in his thoughts what he had best to do, a frog popped out of the bottom, looked cheerfully, and as it were invited him to taste of the water: he then immediately concluded that the water could not have any poisonous quality, because of that creature's living so comfortably there, and took a moderate draught, about half a pint or more, without any concern or dread of danger, repeated the same in about half an hour's time, and it had this effect upon him, as to create a keen appetite. This is the first origin of its discovery, though there is a tradition that about two or three hundred years ago it was in greater repute, especially in all scorbutic cases, than the Bath; but how it came to be neglected so long a time, I cannot account for, unless for the want of accommodation to entertain the valedudinarian sick, which at present is in a good measure remedied, but much more in expectation.

"This water is thought by some able judges, who have examined it, to be inferior to none of its kind in Europe. Dr. Edward Brown, son of the famous Sir Thomas Brown, in his travels, mentions divers hot baths in Hungary, the water whereof is very clear, and smells of sulphur, the sediment green, and doth but slowly change the colour of metals, but the sediment of this is milk white, and changes any silver coin or piece of plate in a minute or two into a dark copper colour, which is a demonstration that it partakes more strongly of sulphur, and as to the nature of the hot waters at Aix la Chapelle, according to the Reverend Mr. Dorrington's account, they are of a *sulphureo-salsonitrous* quality, but this is judged to be *sulphureo* chalybeate.

"But I have no leisure at present, had I been capable of such an agreeable work, to make any farther philosophical disquisition about the texture of it, there having been, as far as I can find, no chymical analysis made of its constituent principles: sulphur, undoubtedly, is the predominant, and as far as I am able to judge, from some experiments of the Honorable Robert Boyle, it partakes also of a chalybeate,<sup>2</sup> and consequently 'tis a specific to be depended upon if managed with discretion and prudence, in all scorbutic and cutaneous cases, relaxation of the fibres of the stomach, and in a word in all stubborn and chronical distempers where salt and acidity ever abound.

"As to my own case it was thus: I mentioned before, my being reduced to a most deplorable condition by an inveterate scurvy which yielded to no medicines commonly prescribed, so that I looked upon myself to be in a desperate condition; but the happy discovery of this well infused fresh courage in me. I knew very well that violent purgatives are always attended with mischievous consequences, and so I prepared my body before I drank the water with the following lenitive bolus;

<sup>1</sup> Some persons will perhaps disagree with Theophilus Evans upon this part of the subject.

<sup>2</sup> This water also contains a very small quantity of marine salt.



take lenitive electuary an ounce and a half, powder of diasenna, flour of brimstone, of each one drachm and a half, tartar vitriolate one drachm, syrup of roses solutive, as much as is sufficient to make it into an electuary every second day for two weeks. It requires no confinement if the weather is fair, only taking care not to catch cold. I then begun to drink the water, viz., about half a pint or more at a time, after each dose of the following antiscorbutic electuary every morning fasting, and about four or five o'clock in the afternoon; take Æthiop's mineral, cinnabar of antimony, of each one ounce, orange peel candied, conserves of scurvy grass, of each half an ounce, gum guaiacum six drachms, Chymical oil of sassafras eight drops, syrup of elder berries what is sufficient to make it into an electuary: The dose is the quantity of a nutmeg.

"By the use of this for about two months, and washing my body every day with the water, for then there was no conveniency of bathing, as there it at present, I was by God's blessing, made perfectly whole, though my case was adjudged by a great many to be incurable; and I question not but others, in a like condition, will receive the same benefit, as indeed abundance have done already, which is the sole motive that induced me to publish this for the public good."

Dr. Blenkinsop, a physician, formerly resident at Abergavenny, has also published a paper in the *Gentleman's Magazine* on the virtues of this spring. He had (he says) the well opened to investigate its source, and after removing the stones which covered its channel, a black turf was perceived, twelve inches deep or better, then a stiff clay of a very dark colour mixed with marl, and under this a very light gravel. The water did not rise from under the gravel, as was expected, but was still running in a stream; he therefore dug further, when it was observed to boil up, "I was then (he adds) certain that the head of its spring was not far distant, but as the earth and stones from the covering were likely to fall in, we could not proceed, for fear of stopping its course at that time, which would have been a great detriment and disappointment to the many objects in waiting for its salutary effects, and also because proper workmen could not be procured to secure it again."

"I am of opinion (he adds) that it flows up perpendicularly through a bog or morass; the water is very transparent and *never* loses its taste or smell,<sup>1</sup> nor is it impregnated with rain water, even in the wettest season. As soon as it is received into a glass, it sparkles and you may see the air-bubbles rise gradually till they are gradually disseminated through the whole, and remain so for hours. I kept a quart bottle in my room all night, uncorked it, and its smell and taste were *very little* impaired. It is a very light water and perfectly soft, for when you wash your face and hands in it, you feel the same sensation as when you use soap and water. It dissolves soap immediately and intimately unites with it, it sits easily on the stomach, and passes quietly through the kidneys. I saw a trial of it, when nothing but this water would remain on a stomach impaired by drinking spirituous liquors. It was mixed with a little brandy at first, and in a few days drank alone, and the person is perfectly recovered. It is a fine diuretic, because its effects are the same with every person who drinks it, even in the smallest quantity, and in consequence it must be useful in nephritic complaints, where a stone is not confirmed, and by its natural saponaceous quality, must, I think, prove a dissolvent for sabulous matter either in the kidneys or bladder, which is the foundation of the stone;" he then proceeds to give an instance of its efficacy in this complaint, as well as in a case of *lowness of spirits* and inveterate scurvy, and concludes with recommending it to the attention of the chymist and the valetudinarian, and it is added that hot and cold baths, with dressing rooms attached and other conveniences have been lately erected by the proprietor of the land from whence the spring rises to which these lines allude.

#### LEAD ORE DISCOVERED.

A small quantity of lead ore was discovered in this parish, but this mineral is so very anomalous in its dip and progress, and the carriage over bad roads and lofty mountains is so very expensive, that the search for it was abandoned; and several unsuccessful attempts were also made to procure coal: black jack indeed and a kind of blackish slate, strongly resembling coal was found here, which, it is said, has all its qualities, *except combustibility*. Mineralogists who know the course of the veins through South Wales, and the direction of the dip, when they learn that the lime, which is the bed or lap of coal, and iron, bursts out at Llangynider, and in the range of the hills westward, laugh at the idea of finding coal in the hundred of Builth, and consider the efforts now and then made to dig for it there, either as tricks of impostors, or the fruitless exertions of ignorance.

Four rivers fall into the Irvon within this parish, Henog, Lledwiall, Cledan and Cerdin. The bridge over the Irvon, near the church, is repaired by the parish, that of Pontrhydvre, lower down, (which gives name to the village adjoining it) by the hundred.

<sup>1</sup> The doctor is not correct in this assertion, the sulphurous particles soon evaporate, and the water, when carried a few miles, loses much of its taste, smell, and effect.



The certified value of this curacy, in the time of Queen Anne, which has neither parsonage or glebe, was 14*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* the vicar of Llangammarch nominates to it; the parish register is of a late date, but we know not precisely how far back it goes. The curacy is not in charge in the king's book.<sup>1</sup>

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

The population of this parish in 1901 was 854, being an increase of 42 over that recorded in 1891, and almost double that given for the year 1801. Since the making of the railway the town has been frequented by large numbers of people, who drink the mineral waters, and it is said that at least 12,000 visitors annually attend here for this purpose; the season lasts from April till October. The Dolycoed Hotel, in the grounds of which one of the springs rises, is a convenient and comfortable place for visitors, and they are allowed a free use of the springs and the highly attractive grounds. There are also three mineral springs in the Victoria Wells grounds, which were discovered by the divining rod. There are several commodious hotels and houses for the reception of visitors, and a large lake upon which pleasure boats have been placed; this lake is fed from the Irvon. A pavilion has also been erected to hold 400 people.

Llanwrtyd and Llandulas were formely in the Carmarthen Union of Llandovery. In February, 1897 they were transferred to Builth Union and Rural District. Llanwrtyd gives the name to the polling district and Electoral division in which it is placed. The area of the parish is given as 11,335 acres, of which much is mountain. The rateable value is about £3,800.

Llanwrtyd was made a separate parish from Llangammarch in 1871. The church of St. David near the hamlet of Clawdd Madoc was restored in 1862 at a cost of £600 or £800; it now consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret containing one bell. Near to the chancel is a marble monument, erected to the memory of Commodore Lloyd. The inscription, which is from the pen of his son John Lloyd, a distinguished scholar and poet (who died 1875), is as follows: "Sacred to the memory of John Lloyd, eldest son of Rees Lloyd, of Dinas, and Captain of the Honourable East India Company's ship *Manship*; who left this his native parish at the age of 16 without friends or interest; but by good conduct and perseverance acquired both; and after thirty years of active naval service, and twelve voyages to India, in the course of which he twice suffered shipwreck, and a cruel imprisonment at the hands of Tippto Sultan, of Mysore, returned to display the same active and enterprising spirit in promoting the welfare and cultivating the resources of his native country. He died February, 1818, aged 70."

The church of St. James, situate in the village, was built in 1897 at a cost of £1,600, and consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret with one bell. The value of the living, which is in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's, is £130 net. In 1899 it was augmented, the Diocesan Society giving £100, private subscriptions £100, and Queen Anne's Bounty £200.

The vicars of Llanwrtyd have been: 1870, Henry Miles; 1877, William Tudor Thomas.

The Mrs. Margaret Jones's bequest, already referred to, was made by will dated 22nd May, 1782. She gave the interest of £300 Consols to keep a free school of Llanwrtyd for ever, and appointed the Curate and Churchwardens and Overseers, trustees; she also gave £200 consols for bed clothes for the poor, £50 for her trustees to make themselves a feast on November 1st in each year, and the interest of £100 to clothe poor children at Llangammarch and Llanwrtyd.

Beside the church there is a Congregational Chapel, first founded in 1693; the present building, erected in 1868, is an edifice of native stone with brick dressings, and has sitting accommodation for 260. The Calvinistic Chapel, first erected in 1808, was re-built in 1867, with accommodation for 350 persons. There is also a Baptist Chapel.

Llanwrtyd and its district are noted for the long residence therein of the Rev. Kilsby Jones, and the Rev. David Williams, of Troedyrhiwdalar, both eminent as preachers in the Nonconformist body to which they belonged. The latter died in 1874, aged 95 years and seven months, and the former survived Williams for some years.

<sup>1</sup> The list of incumbents here, as well as at Llanddewi Abergwessin, is reserved till Llangammarch, the mother church is reached.



## LLANDDEWI ABERGWESSIN.

WE are now travelling into the wildest, most uncultivated, and uninhabitable parts of Breconshire, "where the gilt chariot never marked the way." And where no other carriage, unless it be the small wheel cart and sledge, can pass with safety; a few narrow glens (where small inclosures, low cottages, and one mansion house only excepted, are interspersed here and there), intersect the dreary waste: man seems doomed here to surrender these regions to the sheep, and to those of his own race only who are accustomed to collect the produce, watch the habits, and occasionally protect these useful and profitable little animals from the perils of the storm or snow.

JOHN LLOYD OF TOWY.

The parish and chapel of Llanddewi Abergwessin is appendant and appurtenant to Llangamarch, and is dedicated to Saint David, as its name (Saint David's on Gwessin-fall) clearly indicates. Llanvihangel Abergwessin is placed with tolerable accuracy, by Adams, in latitude 52 16, longitude 3 34; he has omitted Llanddewi Abergwessin, but the churches are so near one another, the latter being a few yards westward of the Irvon, and the former on the other side, just on the junction of the Gwessin, that the above distances will apply to both, as the space between is so small that it is hardly worth noticing. There is nothing worthy of remark or observation in the church or churchyard, or indeed within this parish. Nant y Flaiddast, or the brook of the she wolf, one of the Termini, mentioned in the charter of Rees ap Griffith to the monks of Ystradfflur, is the name of a rill, and also of a small farm within its precinct. On the western boundary was formerly the mansion of John Lloyd, who described himself of Towy, but who very sensibly changed his residence and removed to a more sheltered spot; he was the son of Thomas Lloyd, the lineal descendant in the elder line of Elystan Glodrydd, by Angharad, his second wife, daughter of Morgan ap Evan Lloyd. This Thomas Lloyd was a partizan of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh, and probably joined him with a considerable body of men in Caerdiganshire, on his march to the battle of Bosworth Field; as a reward for his services, he had ample possessions bestowed upon him by the crown, and was appointed lord lieutenant of the county of Brecon, which office he held for forty years. His only son, by the second wife, John Lloyd, went very early into England, and served in the French and Scotch wars, under Henry the Eighth; he was afterwards, as the inscription on a plate of brass in Builth church informs us, *Squer to the bodie* (Esquire to the body) of Queen Elizabeth, the first sheriff and justice of the peace, who resided in the county after the union, and steward of the manor or lordship of Builth under Walter, Earl of Essex and Earl Marshal of Ireland, who was buried at Carmarthen.

The public are indebted to the writer of this epitaph, whoever he may have been, for the account of the appointment or grant by the crown to the Earl of Essex, of this manor, which has escaped the notice of historians, as well as antiquaries, and of the indefatigable and learned Dugdale among the rest. Upon the attainder of the gallant but eccentric and unfortunate Robert, Earl of Essex, we presume, the lordship reverted to the crown.

Sometime previous to his decease, which happened in 1585, he resided at his mansion of Porth y erwys, or the gate of the cross, in Llanynis; no vestige of this house now remains, but its situation in a field, being part of a farm called Cefnlllys gwin, is very well known, and here a difficulty occurs which we know not well how to solve. By his will in the register office, proved soon after his death, wherein he still described himself as "John Lloyd of Towy, esquier," though then living in a different parish, he gave his soul to God and his body *to be buried in the parish church of Llanynis*, yet the inscription in Builth church asserts that he lieth there. On the one hand it is hardly to be supposed that his son would have disobeyed an injunction thus solemnly imposed upon him, and in those days always religiously observed, and on the other, we are loath to disbelieve the assertion in his epitaph; upon the whole we incline to think that it was a mere inaccuracy, that instead of "here lieth," *memoriæ sacrum*, or sacred to the memory, was only intended, and that this monument of gratitude to a benefactor to the town and country, was placed there at the expence of the inhabitants and his friends, as being a more public place than the church of Llanynis, where he was actually buried.

HIS WILL.

This John Lloyd proceeds, by his will above noticed, to give his second son, John Lloyd, Tyr Jeuan ap Gwilym Jeuan dew yn y Felindre, Tyr Brithwernydd, Tyr Jeuan with hir, Cae Jeuan Llwyd, Gardd Meredith ap Morgan, Gardd Hugh ap Rhys, in the Castle street, Ty Madoe David Morgan at



Bridgend, Ty yn y Fynwent, alias Ty Robert Dio ap Howel, Ty Howel Madoc, Ty Mallt verch Jenkin Owen, and Ty John Bannor,<sup>1</sup> all in Builth, to be holden for twenty one years, provided he gave his elder brother, David Lloyd, a band<sup>2</sup> to surrender it up at that time, he also gives his son, John, his dyrie (dairy) cattle and chattels, at Cae du, to Gwenllian, vz. William, his *woyre*,<sup>3</sup> twelve heifers, to Robert John, his *woyre*, and to his other grandchildren, other legacies. In his inventory, is a debt due from Robert Toy of Carmarthen, merchant, of forty marks, given into the hands of Robert Kerver, his man, to be delivered over to him at a daie long past, and another from David ap Meredith, esq., recovered at the last assizes for the county of Radnor, being nineteen pounds and six shillings, whereupon he says he had "tow capiases, one upon his bodie and the other upon his goods." The pedigree of this John Lloyd will appear in that of Lloyd of Rhosferig, from which it will be seen that his male issue failed with his grandson.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PARISH IN 1809.

Notwithstanding the distance from markets, the badness of the roads, and the inclemency of the climate during the greatest part of the year, a gentleman of the name of Jones, possessed of considerable property, real and personal, and a magistrate in the commission of the peace for the county, has built a handsome house, called Llwynderw, or the oak grove, in this parish, where he resides, and pays his attention principally to rearing sheep, of which he is supposed to be the greatest proprietor in South Wales, if not in the principality; he is said to have upwards of ten thousand, worth upon an average ten or twelve shillings each; the Leicestershire farmer will smile at the individual value of each of these diminutive animals, but let him introduce his rank, overgrown stock, to these mountains, and see what his profit will amount to at the end of the year.

The river which gives name to this and the adjoining parish, should correctly be written Gwesin, a streamlet, being the diminutive of Gwês, that which moves on or goes (Owen sub verb.), as the Welsh seldom if ever double the letters which always bear a hard sound. We have, however, to accommodate English eyes, written it Gwessyn or Gwessin; after running a very few miles it loses itself in the Irvon.

The nomination to this curacy, to which there is neither augmentation, parsonage house, or glebe, is in the vicar of Llangamarch.

There are, as we apprehend, errors both in Ecton and the printed return of the commissioners in the time of Queen Anne, as to the certified value of the curacy. In the latter, Llanvihangel Abergwessin is said to be of the annual value of £18 and Llandewi Abergwessin is omitted. In Ecton, Llanddewi Abergwessin is said to be of £18 and no value is annexed to Llanvihangel Abergwessin, and in both Llanddewi'r cwm is said to be of the annual value of five pounds, though the united curacies of Builth and Llanddewi'r cwm are valued in one sum at ten pounds per annum, so that probably for Llanddewi'r cwm, thus separately calculated at five pounds, we should read Llanddewi Abergwessin.

The register commences in 1740, and the curacy is not in charge.

## LATER PARTICULARS.

The parishes of Llanddewi and Llanvihangel Abergwessin were united into one benefice by an order in Council dated May 18, 1865 (Llanddewi-Abergwessin being separated from Llangammarch by the same process in November, 1860.) The dilapidated church of Llanddewi Abergwessin was pulled down under a faculty dated January 29th 1886, and the church of Llanvihangel Abergwessin constituted the parish church of the united parishes. Mr. E. D. Thomas conveyed four acres of land for a vicarage house in 1886; the vicarage was built in 1868 at the charge of the late Mrs. Henry Thomas and Bishop Thirlwall. The Rev. John Jones was appointed first vicar.

The population of Llanddewi Abergwessin in 1901 was 69; in 1891, 83; and in 1801, 118. The area is 10,511 acres, and the rateable value only £694. It is in Builth Rural District and Llanwrtyd Polling District and Electoral Division. The district is entirely devoted to sheep farming. Llwynderw is the residence of Mrs. Myra Elizabeth Roberts, it having been bought in 1889 from the son of the late Mr. Jones by Thomas Turner Roberts, Esq.; for some years previously it had been let as a by-take to a neighbouring farmer.

<sup>1</sup> Corruptly for Barwn, a surname.

<sup>2</sup> A bond, thus written in the reign of Elizabeth and the Welsh still pronounce it band.

<sup>3</sup> Wyr, a grandson. This Welsh word continually occurs in old wills, the remainder of which are written in English.



# LLANVIHANGEL ABERGWESSIN,

Or ST. MICHAEL'S on the FALL OF GWESIN.

THE situation of this church has been before described; the dedication is obvious, it contains nothing interesting: there is no table of benefactions here, although a farm in this parish, called Cefenfaes, of the annual value of 3*l.* 18*s.* by the will of William Thomas in 1709, and another donation of £5 per annum by the will of the late Evan Thomas, esq., are devised and paid every year towards the support of the poor. Within this parish are many commons and much mountainous ground, where sheep and small wild horses and cattle are depastured; it is intersected with a few more picturesque vales than the preceding parish.

## THE LLWYNMADOC MANSION.

That in which Llwynmadoc, the mansion of the late Evan Thomas, and of Henry Thomas and David Thomas, esqrs., is situated, is remarkably romantic and beautiful. This family is descended from one of the younger branches of the house of Elystan Glodrydd; they have been possessed of a tenement called Llwynmadoc, in this parish, for some centuries, but prior to the increase of fortune by the late Mr. Evan Thomas, which was acquired by industry and application to business, as well as by marriage, they were not of sufficient importance to be noticed by the heralds: the first we find is Evan Thomas ap Meredith, who died in 1676, and who left issue Meredith Bevan, Thomas Bevan, and Rees ap Jeuan: Thomas purchased Llwynmadoc, from his eldest brother, and died in 1695, leaving Edward Thomas (who married Winifred Evans of *Blan y cwm*) to whom he devised Llwynmadoc; Mauld, of whom we know nothing; William Thomas, to whom he devised *Tyr yr Dryscol*, and whose child, William, died without issue, Meredith and David. Edward Thomas left issue the late Evan Thomas, esq., many years agent to Lord Weymouth, since marquiss of Bath; he married a daughter of Thomas Waters, and secondly Miss Jones of Cribarth. Edward Thomas, who married Catherine Davies of *Sarn y geifr*, Mary who married Evan Lloyd of *Cwmemliw*, and Anne married to John Price of *Castell bach*. Evan Thomas, the eldest son of the first Edward, had issue Henry Thomas, living about 1800, who married Miss Gwynne of *Glynairon*, and Thomas Thomas, who died without issue. Edward Thomas the second had issue Edward Thomas, esq., deceased, who married, first Letitia Price of *Maes yr onn*, and secondly Anne Evans, widow, sister of David Jones of *Llwynderw* and daughter of Peter Jones of *Dugoedy*,<sup>1</sup> David Thomas of the Pay Office London, and Evan Thomas who died without issue. Henry Thomas had issue, Evan, Mary and Anne; and Edward, his first cousin had issue by his first wife, Evan Thomas, who died without issue, and by his second wife, Anne, married to David Prichard, the younger, of *Builth*, gent., and David Thomas married to Catherine Jones of *Ystradwalter*. Llwynmadoc may perhaps have been the mansion or temporary residence of Madoc ap Bleddin ap Cynfyn, prince of Powys, upon the expulsion of Rhys ap Tewdwr into Ireland, until the defeat at *Llechryd* with his brothers, Ryrid and Cadwgan, upon his return, but this is given merely as conjecture and not history.

## THE PARISH RIVERS.

To the westward, and in the county of Cardigan, is the lake of Llyngynon, near the junction of this and the preceding parish, from whence springs a brook called *Brwyno*, or rather *Brwynog* the rushy, dividing the counties and running into the *Claerwen* after it has reached the *Claerddu*, soon after which the united streams fall into the *Elan*. This pool, and the rill that flows from it, would not have deserved notice, if Edward Richards, the sweet swan<sup>2</sup> of *Ystradmeurig*, had not preserved the names of them as long as the British language remains.

Heddyw'n clodforu a'n tafod Llyn Teifi  
Y foru'n llon ganu Llyngynon.  
Dowisach it oesu rhwng Claerwen a chlaerddu.<sup>3</sup>  
Na phlygu ag hyderu ar gwd arall.

To day we praise our Towy's stream,  
Next day Llyngynon claims the theme.  
Oh! rather starve on Claerwon's side,  
Or on the banks of Claerddu hide,  
Than on another's purse depend,  
Or penniless intreat a friend.

But while the poet warms, the country chills us, we therefore hasten from it with all convenient despatch.

<sup>1</sup> Darkwood lodge or house.

<sup>2</sup> Few know how well this appellation applies to the poet; he predicted in one of his pastorals that he should die deserted and abandoned by all his relations and friends. Extraordinary as it may appear, we are informed that he was found dead in his bed, his doors locked, but without keys, and no human being within the house.

<sup>3</sup> *Claiar wen*, the clear white, *Claiar ddu*, the clear blackish, (water).





LLWYNMADOC—SEAT OF MISS THOMAS.



EGLWYS OEN DUW FROM THE S.W.







The nomination to the curacy, which has no parsonage or glebe, and is not in charge or augmented, is in the vicar of Llanafan fawr, and the certified value has been already ascertained. The parish register goes back to 1730.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

The union of this and the preceding parish for ecclesiastical purposes has already been explained. A Celtic cross of Radyr stone in the churchyard marks the last resting place of Henry Thomas, Esq., Llwynmadoc, for 12 years chairman of Quarter Sessions for Glamorganshire, and of Evan Llewellyn Thomas, his son, whose death followed within a few months that of his father. There is no record of the original building of Llwynmadoc; it was added to in 1747, according to the only inscribed date. Up to the year 1851 it was used as a shooting box, and in that year was altered into a more convenient house by Mr. Thomas, who from that time made it his residence. He was much interested in the then greatly needed improvement of roads in this neighbourhood. The roads from Garth to Beulah, from Beulah to Llanwrtyd, and from Beulah to Abergwessin were, by his influence and assistance, diverted where it was possible, so as to avoid the worst gradients (the first-named being for the most part new); the neighbouring landowners, Mr. Fuller Maitland, of Garth, Mr. Allen of Oakfield, and Mr. Thomas of Welfield contributing in land or money.

The first elementary school under Government inspection in the district lying between Llandovery and Builth, now called Llwynmadoc School, was provided mainly by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas—the foundation stone was laid in 1850 by Evan Llewellyn Thomas who died 1864—with the support and assistance of the neighbouring landowners and farmers; whilst the maintenance of the school in the iron room at Abergwessin, and the erection and maintenance of the school at Llanafan fawr were mainly due to the liberality of Mr. Thomas's widow. Some years after her death a permanent school building was erected by public subscription at Abergwessin on a site given by Mr. E. D. Thomas of Welfield. Mr. Thomas also built and endowed the vicarage of Llanvihangel Abergwessin, which was consolidated with Llandewi Abergwessin, having been hitherto held as a curacy under Llanafan fawr.

The Llwynmadoc property devolved, on the death of Evan Llewellyn Thomas, upon his sister Clara, the present owner. The church at Abergwessin was built by her in place of the two barn-like structures then standing, and also by her the new church and district of Eglwys Oen Duw were respectively built and endowed and provided with a vicarage house; the district being carved out of the parish of Abergwessin, in which the church stands; of Llangammarch, in which the vicarage stands; and of Llanlleonfel and Llanafan fawr.

#### THE CHURCHES.

The two former churches in the two Abergwessins were served by a monk from the Abbey of Strata Florida, during the existence of that community. On the mountain road from Strata Florida to Abergwessin, the point where Abergwessin first comes in sight is called Cae Pader, and believed to be the spot whereon the said monk began to recite his paternosters on approaching the church.

The present Abergwessin church is cruciform, and early English in style; the architect was Mr. J. R. Withers. It has one stained glass window by Burlison and Gylls. The tower contains a peal of six bells cast by Warner, and are inscribed "Llanvihangel Abergwessin 1871." Eglwys Oen Duw church consists of a nave, chancel, and vestry, with central timber spire containing a peal of four bells by Warner. The style is early English, and Mr. John Norton was the architect. There is stained glass in eight windows by Clayton and Bell. The west window of five lights was put up by Mrs. Alicia Thomas, widow of Mr. Evan Thomas, in memory of her son Henry Thomas and her grandson Evan Llewellyn Thomas; the east window of three lights was put up by Mrs. Henry Thomas.

The church and burial ground were consecrated September 14, 1875. The first incumbent was the Rev. M. E. Welby, who was succeeded by the Rev. W. Gethin Griffith, M.A., upon whose preferment to Llandefalle, the Rev. Thomas Jones was in 1902 appointed vicar. The joint living is worth £200 a year net with residence and four acres of glebe. The population in 1901 was 247; the rateable value £1,358, and the area 11,626 acres.

In the parish of Abergwessin there are two Nonconformist chapels, one in the village, "Moriah," built by the Independents in 1826, rebuilt 1867; and one in the Cnyffiad Valley, "Pantycelyn," founded by the Baptists in 1806.

#### THE PRESENT CHARITIES.

Tyr-y-cenfas, the property devised by William Thomas as a charity, was in 1873 let on lease to Miss Clara Thomas for 14 years at the rent of £34 a year. This charity—(by some confusion



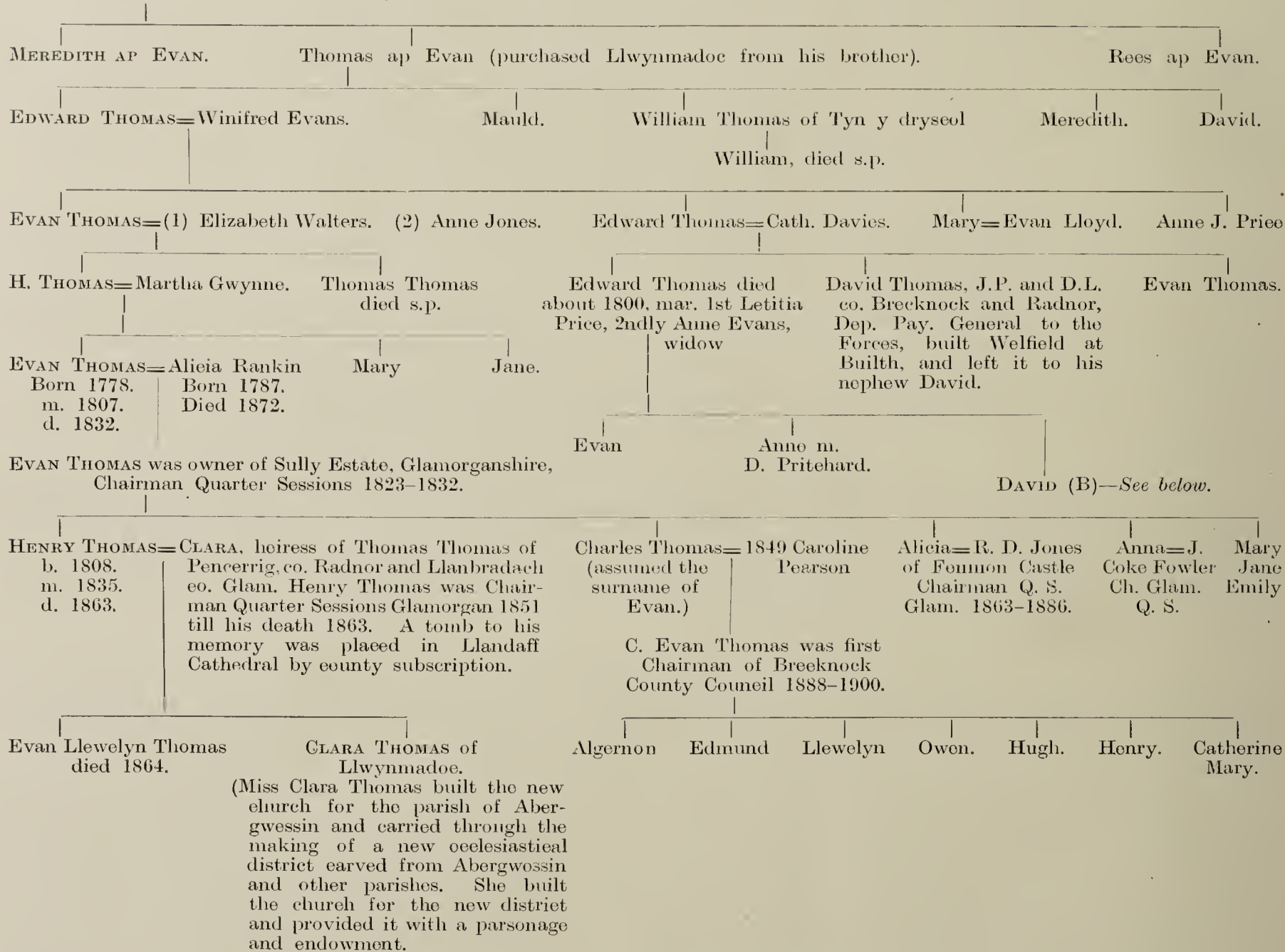
described in the 1869 Commissioners Report as the "Ricketts" Charity)—is for the benefit of the poor and to be distributed by the vicar and wardens of the parish. The will was proved in the Consistory Court at Brecon on the 18th July, 1709, and the distribution was to take place on Christmas Day and the 25th day of March yearly for ever.

The Evan Thomas of Llwynmadoc Charity is a sum of £5 yearly divided between ten poor persons on Christmas Day annually.

### PEDIGREE OF THOMAS OF LLWYNMADOC.

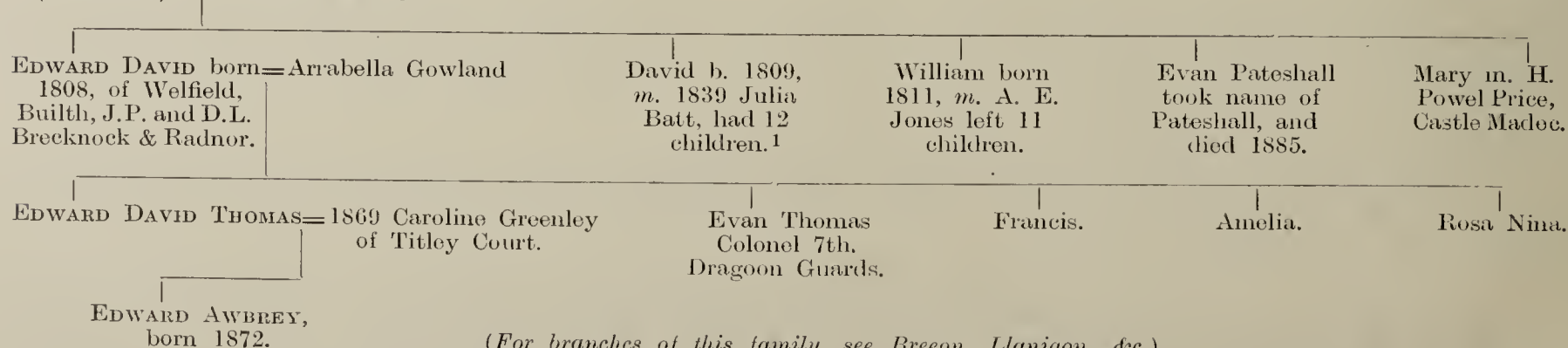
(See Jones's notes on this family.)

EVAN THOMAS AP MEREDITH died 1676—



### PEDIGREE OF THOMAS OF WELFIELD.

DAVID THOMAS=Catherine Jones of (died 1830). Ystrad Walter.



(For branches of this family, see Brecon, Llanigon, &c.)

<sup>1</sup> See "Mayor of Brecknock," for year 1876, in this work.



## LLANWRTHWL.

THIS parish extends to the boundary of Breconshire on the north and north east, adjoins Caeridiganshire on the west, projects at one point to within two or three stone-throws of Montgomeryshire, and has the Elan and the Wye, separating the counties of Brecon and Radnor on the east and north east.

It is dedicated, according to Ecton, to Mwthwl. Where he or Brown Willis found out this Saint we know not; from his garb he should seem to be British, but the Welsh will not acknowledge him: in the *Triads* indeed, we have a personage to whom our very early ancestors own themselves indebted for the art of building in stone and mortar, but he is supposed to live so soon after the deluge that nothing but absolute necessity, and the want of an *accredited*, patron for the parish would induce us to drag him from his obscurity. He is called Morddal Gwr Gweilgi, or Morddal the man of the ocean, and though it would be too much to insist with pertinacity upon the existence of such a person, it is by no means improbable that a stranger from the continent might have taught the Britons masonry, that out of gratitude for the comforts he conferred, his memory may have been revered, and that even a church was dedicated to him, though he lived before the Christian era. From Morddal to Mwrthwl, a hammer, the transition is easy, and we then have a Saint for this parish; in what degree of estimation he is now held by the inhabitants, we have no authority to state.

## THE CHURCH AND ANTIQUITIES.

The church is situated near the river Wye, not far below the Aber of the Elan, in latitude 52 20, longitude 3 22, though not noticed by Adams. This is a dark low fabric, indifferently seated, and not ceiled: in the church yard is a large stone about two yards in height, whether a Maen hîr, or the shaft of a cross, the top being broken off, is uncertain. A great part of this parish consists of lofty hills, bogs and commons; among the first is the Drygarn or Derwydd garn, (Mount Druid or Druid's rock), part of which is in Llanvihangel Abergwessin, and may be seen from the Brecknock beacons on a clear day. On the top of this are many Carnau or Carneddau, large heaps of stones, as there are also upon a less elevated eminence not far from hence, called Gemrhiw.

On the road from Llandovery and Llangamarch to Rhayader, are seen stones placed irregularly in the ground, which have given a common, partly in this parish and partly in Llanafan, the name of Rhôs saith maen, or Seven-stone common; whether they are sepulchral, military or druidical remains, is not known, but from the name of Rhos y beddau, the common of the graves, not far from hence, nearer to the river Wye, it should seem they commemorate a battle, most likely that of Llechryd and the slaughter in the flight of Riryd and Cadwgan.

## THE RIVERS.

Descending from these mountainous regions and approaching the banks of the Elan and the Wye as they skirt this parish, the soil improves very much and some fertile and productive meadows adorn their course, and we have here a continued succession of pictures than which nothing can be more beautiful.

The river Elan which is lost in the Wye on the north eastern boundary of this parish, is nearly as large as that into which it falls; the name is indicative of the swiftness of its course, and signifies a hind or fawn. Not far from the banks of this river, on the Breconshire side and near a farm called Nant y car, some lumps of copper were discovered a few years prior to 1800, and many attempts have been made to follow the metal but in vain; its vagaries mock the efforts of art or science, and have no similitude to the steady and uniform progress of the iron vein, consequently the project, after much labour and considerable expense, at different periods, was at last abandoned.<sup>1</sup>

## THE AP BEDO COCH FAMILY.

The will of Jeuan Philip ap Bedo coch, of this parish, dated in 1576, is curious, insomuch as it describes the customary mode of conveyance in the country previous to the general use of deeds. "I give (says he) Tyr yn y gro issa, which I bought three score and two years agone of one Rees

<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding the ill success of mineralogists in 1800, the veins in this country, in the time of Edward the First and Second, were thought of very considerable importance; in the seventh of the first named monarch's reign, a commission issued, "*De minera infra Ballivum de Buith commissa Hoelo filio Meuric*;" and in the same year, Howel ap Meuric, then being the king's bailiff, and having the castle and manor of Buith, demised to him at one thousand pounds a year, and had the care of the minerals in the county for the king's use; similar commissions follow in the succeeding reigns.—Ayloffe's *Antient Charters*; *Rolls* in the Tower, &c.



David ap Gwylm, after the maner accustomed in the sayed time, in the presenee and oversight of foure neighbours, namely John Bedo ap David, Morgan David ap Morgan, Bedo ap Rhys Chwîth and Philip David ap Meredydd Goeh, to my oldest son, John ap Evan Philip, &c.” The name of Bedo, which was formerly frequently heard in this parish, is a synonym or abbreviation of Meredith, and was afterwards altered or anglicised by those who went to reside to England, into Bedoes and Bedward, though this latter word is sometimes from ap Edward. In 1612, Owen ap Jeuan Bedo, one of the descendants of the above testator, gives Troed Rhiw'r Aethnen or aspen-tree-hill foot, to his brother, Hugh Bedoes of Stretton, in the county of Hereford, clerk. Lelo was also a common name here, if not peculiar to this parish, it was a cant term for a fool or an idiot, but as we have before observed, this was no objection to its adoption or continuance; on the contrary they retained it with an unaccountable pertinacity. In 1626, Evan Meredith ap Lelo gives lands to his son in law, John Storre, clerk, then vicar of Llanwrthwl. Here the grandson preserves the name, but this is nothing; in a few years afterwards, Thomas David ap Evan Meredith Lelo occurs, where the favourite appellation follows to the fifth generation. It is still known in Herefordshire and is sometimes altered into Lilwall. There were no families of note or considerable wealth in this parish in 1800, but a few years before that, William Powel, esq., who was sheriff for the county in 1775, resided at Ystrad, a house pleasantly situated on the banks of the Wye, but there being no bridge over the river near it, he was drowned in attempting to cross the ford in a flood; his son soon dissipated the property and sold Ystrad to Mr. Penry Price, from whom it was purchased by James Watt, esq., one of the partners in the opulent and enterprising firm of Bolton and Watt of Birmingham.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL.

This vicarage, which has been once augmented by Queen Anne's bounty by lot, 1870, £200, but has neither parsonage or glebe attached, is in the collation of the bishop of Saint David's; the impropriate tythes belong to the prebendary of Llanwrthwl, in the college church in Brecon, the present (1800) lessee is the heir or devisee of the late Michael Cope Hopton, esq., who had them with the rest of the Pennant property, with the owners of which estate the lease has continued, being renewed at the usual periods from the year 1559, when Meredith Morgan, chancellor of Saint David's, before named, was prebendary of Llanwrthwl, who first demised them to his son and grandson, from the latter of whom they were obtained by the same fraud that his mother got possession of Pennant for her second husband, Meredith Lewis.

This living is called Lanuchul in Pope Nicholas's taxation, and is valued at 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, tenths 10*s.* 8*d.* The annual value, certified in the time of Queen Anne, was 20*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*: it remains charged in the king's book at 9*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*; pays to the archdeacon 3*s.* 4*d.* annually for procurations, and the register goes back to 1713.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

According to Rees, in his *Welsh Saint's*, Llanwrthwl is dedicated to Gwrthwl, a saint of the latter part of the 7th century, as to whom he gives no further information. The church was rebuilt in 1875 by subscription at a cost of £1,880, and is a small plain edifice of stone, consisting of a chancel, nave, and a one-bell turret. The font is said to be of the 12th century. There is a memorial window to the memory of Rev. John Eagles, M.A., and this was erected about 1874 by his daughter, Mrs. Graham-Clarke, of Frocester Manor, Gloucestershire. The “Maen hir” in the churchyard is said to weigh upwards of six tons.

The area of the parish is 20,168 acres, of which 123 acres are water; and the rateable value, £3,532; the population in 1901 was 1785.

At Nant y Car there was a lead mine on the mountain land, and a considerable plant was erected and the mine worked until 1890, when it was sold by the Lord of the Manor of Builth to the Birmingham Corporation, to be discontinued, in order to insure the purity of the water henceforth to be obtained from this valley for the use of the City of Birmingham.

Doldowlod Hall, the magnificent seat of James Miller Gibson-Watt, Esq., J.P. (see *History of Radnorshire*), stands in extensive grounds, and commands splendid views of the neighbourhood. Another seat is Glanrhôs, the property of Leonard J. Graham-Clarke, Esq., M.A., J.P.

The benefactions to this parish include the following: Edward ap Evan by will dated 1648 gave to the poor of this parish for ever, a messuage called Caer-llan, to be distributed on October 24 annually; this is of the yearly value of £8. Hugh Phillips, by will, charged his property Tydden a Thir Isson Milo, and Tydden a Thir y Talwyn Yoldoge (as given in the Charity Commissioners Report),



with the payment of £3 yearly to the poor; this property is now called Bronviddie, and forms part of a farm called Llanerch fallen. Owen's charity is the interest of £100 left by Margaret Owen to be divided amongst the poor.

A public elementary school was built in 1880. The parish is on the Radnorshire border, and is half a mile north from Doldowlod railway station, and two and a half miles from Rhayader.

The living is a rectory in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's, and in 1895, the Rev. John Y. Evans was instituted to it. In 1900 it was valued at £100 gross or £85 net, but in 1906 it was returned as of the net yearly value of £200 with residence.

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INCUMBENTS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1569.—Bishop of Saint David's		William Huet.	1715.—Ditto.		Charles Williams.
1578.—		Hugh ap Meredith.	1733.—Ditto.		Jacob Wood.
1613.—Bishop of Saint David's.		Meredith Harris.	1789.—Ditto.		Rice Price.
1626.—		John Storre. <sup>1</sup>			
1646.—Bishop of Saint David's.		James Thomas. <sup>2</sup>	1886.—Ditto.		J. H. A. Griffiths.
1682.—		Evan James.	1895.—Ditto.		John V. Evans, B.A.
1713.—Bishop of Saint David's.		David Williams.			

## LLANAFAN FAWR or LLANAVAN VAWR.

Llanafan llain ofer,  
Fynidd-dir,  
Graig oleu  
A'r grug a welir,  
A llwyni tew yn llanw'r tir.

Llanavan full of hills, whose plains  
Are trod by none but idlo swains.  
On high, grey rocks and heath are found  
Below, thick brakes conceal the ground.

THUS sung the wags of former days, but if the satire was ever just, the face and appearance of the country has since materially altered for the better and cultivation, though it cannot remove the hills, has cleared many of the brakes in the valleys.

The church is situated upon an eminence, and is dedicated to Avan or Avanus, a bishop and martyr unknown in the English church history, but acknowledged and noticed in all the MS. pedigrees of the Welsh saints; according to some he was the grandson or great grandson of Cynedda Wledig king of Britain, and as others, the first cousin of Saint David. Geraldus Cambrensis relates a miracle which happened on the profanation of his church: "In the time of Henry the First (he says) one of the lords of Radnor, coming into this country to hunt, placed his dogs in the church of Saint Avan, called in the British language Llanavan, for a night, and he also most irreverently slept in the church with them; but when he got up early in the morning, as hunters are accustomed to do, the dogs were mad, and he being blind was led out by the hand. He lived many years in this state, but upon making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem he was restored to sight; whereupon he went into the holy wars, and in battle with the enemies of the Christian faith, he spurred his horse and rushed boldly into their thickest ranks, thus honourably concluding his life."

## AVANUS THE BISHOP.

Whether this signal interposition of providence, in punishing a conduct, certainly highly reprehensible, and the subsequent restoration to sight, be true or not, it seems to be clear that in very early days a bishop called Afan, Ifan, or Jeuan (for the word is written thus differently) gave name to this parish, yet the difficulty is to ascertain the period in which he lived. Cynedda Wledig who is said to have been a nephew, a sister's son of Helen, the wife of the Emperor Constantius, must have lived about the year 330 or 340; the see of Saint David's was not formed until about the year 577. Now this leaves a period of upwards of two hundred years for three or four lives at most;

<sup>1</sup> William Storre, clerk, was promoted to the rectory of All Saints in the pavement in the city of York, by Queen Elizabeth, in 1594, and died in 1606.—Drake's *Hist. of York*.

<sup>2</sup> Ho was ousted by the *sober* propagators of the gospel, for the alleged crimes of drunkenness and simony, after which the living was vacant for eight years; he was restored in 1660.—Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*.



the same objection lies to the accuracy of those MSS. as to Saint David, who must have been a contemporary, if not of one generation later than Avan, so that probably the names of several of his ancestors have been lost or omitted in his genealogical table, yet even this will not remove the difficulty as to Avanus the *bishop*, whose see either consisted of his parish alone, or it must have been in *nubibus*. Neither history or tradition have placed him as the predecessor or coadjutor of Saint David, nor is he named, to the best of our recollection, in any list of British bishops of that time; he must therefore in our opinion, however it may detract from his antiquity, submit to be brought down several centuries lower, and be considered as the bishop Jeuan,<sup>1</sup> in Brown Willis's *List of the Prelates of Saint David's* during the tenth century, who was preceded by Nathan and followed by Angustell or Arwystl: he is there said to have been bishop for one day only, and is supposed to have been murdered by the Danes in one of their irruptions into Wales, in a meadow on the Whefri side, not far below the vicarage house, where a maen hir of about six feet high was placed and still continues to preserve the memory of that flagitious deed.

The church is of considerable length, and consists of one aisle or nave not ceiled, partially flagged and irregularly seated; on the west end is a heavy tower, containing five bells; there are no curious or ancient inscriptions within the walls, though several of the vicars of Llanavan are said to be buried under a tombstone below the communion table. In the church yard is the tombstone of the saint, on which are the following letters or characters cut in the stone,

“HIC JACET SANCTUS AVANUS EPISCOPUS.”

This stone is of an extremely hard and durable texture, the surface does not appear at all worn, nor does it scale off in lamina, and the letters are deeply cut into it and perfect. It is an oblong square, six feet ten inches by two feet eight, and about six inches in thickness; a dry wall has been built under it which is occasionally repaired, and at present (1800) it looks like what are called the altar tombs, commonly seen in churches and cemeteries, so that it may be doubted whether this was the precise spot, as it certainly was not the manner, in which it was originally placed.<sup>2</sup>

#### RHOS Y CAPEL RUINS.

Between two and three miles north of this church, on a boggy common called Rhôs y capel, was formerly a chapel, probably appurtenant to this parish, which appears in Saxton's maps published between 1574 and 1579, said to have been then known by the name of Kethitalgarth or rather Gelli Talgarth, the forest of Talgarth, and in the ancient surveys of the manor, the forest of Tal Ifan or Tal-Avan; though a MS. pedigree of the descendants of Elystan Glodrydd, seen by Theo. Jones, describes Owen ap Jeuan Bedo, who lived in the beginning of the seventeenth century, to be of Gelli Talgarth in Lanfihangel bryn pabuan, from the boundary of which parish it certainly was not very far distant, and perhaps part of the forest may have extended to the latter precinct. Among the appurtenances of the church of Llanddewi'r cwm, granted by Peter de Leia to the priory of Brecon, is a field in this parish near the church, where there is a small mound, perhaps the ruins of a mansion, called Lle'r prior, the Prior's place, and a tenement called Wern y mynach or Monk's wood. In the same map of Breconshire by Saxton, the chapel of Llys dinam, in the parish of Llanavan vawr, nearer the Wye, and about one mile further to the north east, that of Gelli Talgarth appears to have been in his time standing, though both of them now (1800) are entirely dilapidated; the same fate seems to threaten the mansions in this parish, formerly the residence of opulence, the seats of hospitality, the never failing resources of comfort to the stranger and the traveller, the plentiful granaries of the indigent; and if the shades of the possessors of Ty mawr and Brynioiau, two or three hundred years ago, were now permitted to revisit their dwellings, they might be supposed to exclaim, in the pathetic language of Llywarch hên,

Ystafell Cynddylan ys tywyll heno

Heb dan heb ganwyll!

Cold and gloomy is the hall of Cynddylan to night

Without fire without candle!

#### EVILS OF THE WINDOW TAX.

Cribarth also, which about a century ago, was inhabited by a family of some note, of the name

<sup>1</sup> Jeuan has been since corrupted into Evan, Ivan and John; the latter sound is peculiarly offensive to the ears of Welshmen, who pronounce the I when it occurs, as in John, George, &c., by Si, Sion, Siors, &c., the name of the Evangelist, is not sounded in Welsh, as in the English name of a female, but as I-o-an.

<sup>2</sup> Mab y Clochyddyn or the Sexton's son, a poet who flourished in the latter end of the fourteenth century, is said in a MS. of Llwyd's, in the Ashmolean museum, (as we are informed by Mr. Edward Williams of Flemingstone) to have been of this parish, and to have been the same with Macclaf ap Llywarch, though he has given the two names in his catalogue of British writers. Mab y Clochyddyn wrote a poem in praise of Gwenhwyfar, wife of Hywel ap Tydyr ap Gryffith, inserted in the first vol. of the *Myf. Arch.* p. 510.



of Jones, now extinct like the two former, has long ago been converted into a farm house, the buildings decaying, the garden and courts before the houses neglected, and above all, more than half the windows stopped up. Whenever this melancholy mark of poverty, this too public and certain memento of fallen opulence, or the desertion of proprietors, this wretched but too frequently requisite expedient to avoid the scourge of the tax gatherer occurs, and unfortunately it occurs nine times out of ten when we view our old mansions in the country, and even the farm houses above the size of cottages, we cannot help lamenting that some *succedaneum* has not been found for an impost so grating to the feelings of every human being, so detrimental to health, and the duration of the fabric, in its consequences, and which ceases to be effective in proportion as the mischief increases, but while the necessities of the State continue, and indeed augment in an alarming degree, we must be satisfied to deplore the ills we are unable to remedy, and patiently submit to those burdens which cannot be avoided.

## SOME OLD MANSIONS.

Ty mawr in Llysdim, the mansion first above mentioned, was built by Thomas Huet<sup>1</sup> præcentor of Saint David's, rector of Cefnlllys, and of Dissert, in the county of Radnor, who died August 19th, 1591, and was buried in the chancel of Llanavan church: his niece, we believe, and daughter and heiress to his brother Rees Huet, married Richard Jones of Brynioiau, whose son Samuel Prichard, esq., married Jane or Jonet, daughter of Matthew Towers of Brecon, esq., who died in 1614. They had issue one daughter, Anne, who married Roderick Gwynne of Llanfaireylgydin, in the county of Monmouth, by whom she had Howel Gwynne of Brynoie, who married the daughter of Judge Gwynne of Garth, and united both the estates, but in consequence of some arrangements and family settlements, the latter only remained with the Garth family, and Ty mawr and the remainder of the Llysdim property possessed by the Glanbran line, in which it continued in 1800.

The district of Llysdim at the same period, was called a hamlet of Llanavan fawr, yet it is to many purposes a separate and distinct parish, maintains its own poor, appoints its own officers, and repairs its own highways.

Since the church fell into ruins,<sup>2</sup> it pays a contribution of a sixth of the assessments towards the repairs of Llanavan church, and one third to Llanvihangel bryn pabuan, the latter being the usual place of worship, to which the inhabitants resort, but there is great reason to believe that this payment was at first voluntary, though prescription has now established it and made it compulsory. Besides the decay of the church, Llysdim has undergone several other vicissitudes in the course of time, which have probably much changed the face of the country, as well as the population, the wealth, employments, habits, and manners of the inhabitants.

## AN ANCIENT HIGH COURT.

In the old surveys of the manor of Builth, and in ancient presentments, the weavers of Inam are considered as a body corporate, and are assessed and pay their chief rents to the lord, separately from the neighbouring inhabitants. A tenement in this hamlet is called Penlllys, the high court of justice, and the proprietors of this land also formerly were so named, as Jeuan Penlllys, Evan of the high court, or it may with equal propriety be translated, Evan the head of the court, or chief justice, so that here the law was probably administered for the government of the manufacturers, under regulations of their own, and subject to charters of their own adoption, or by grants from the lords under whose protection they resided, but the shuttle has been exchanged for the mattock, and the seat of justice is now perhaps converted into a beast house.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH IN 1809.

As this slang continues to approach the banks of the Wye, between Llanwrthwl and Llanvihangel bryn pabuan, vegetation and the appearance of the country improve, but where it joins Llanavan, it is principally mountain ground and wastes. The general appearance of the mother parish is that of a tempestuous ocean, instantaneously arrested in its progress, and converted from solubility into a solid mass or substance, though the waves sometimes cross their general flow through the country, which, from the appearance from the Brecknock beacons, is in undular lines from west to east, as if impelled by the south west winds (on which latter side they present a more gradually rising surface), towards the north east, where their front becomes more precipitous, and resembles the break of the wave on the shore: in Llanavan the swells of what we call the cross waves, are nearly equal on both sides, or at least have no general characteristic difference like the general aspect we have

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Huet was one of the translators into Welsh of the New Testament, published 1567. He was assisted by Bishop R. Davies, William Salesbury. (*See History of Radnorshire*).

<sup>2</sup> This chapel was erroneously marked in Theo. Jones' county map as then standing; it had been in ruins then for above one hundred years.



described, and intersect the parish from north to south, but even this appearance may be attributed to a contrariety of winds or currents, as we frequently observe in the sea, or on the meeting of tides at the mouths of large rivers. The rivers which run through this parish are the Dulas, flowing through the centre of it, and Chwefri on the east. Over each of these is a small stone bridge within this parish repaired by the hundred, besides several Pontydd pren or Pont prenydd.

The living is in the collation of the bishop of the see, but the impropriate tithes belong to the chapter of Saint David's, though in 1662 we find them in the possession of the learned serjeant Lyttleton, not as lessee, but as impropriator. The vicarage house is called Persant, corruptly for Berth y Sanet, the saint's hedge, or the hedge near which the saint was murdered. It is thus written in an old deed. There is no glebe, but the vicar now (1800) resides there, as his predecessors have successively done for time immemorial: it is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Chwefri, about a quarter of a mile below the church, and there was formerly a good Latin grammar school kept here, but the health of the present vicar will not permit him to attend to that avocation.

The living is valued in Pope Nicholas's taxation at £13 6s. 8d. Tenths £1 6s. 8d. In the Liber Regis at only £9 8s. 9d. Tenths 18s. 10½d. Pays 7s. 11d. archdiaconal procurations annually and remains in charge. The parish register book goes back to the year 1720.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

An ancient Register, formerly in the possession of Miss Clara Thomas, of Llwyn-madoc, but restored by her in 1875 to the parish, gives some interesting details. The book, which for the most part is in Latin, commences with the year 1633. The title page has a rude drawing of a cross with the motto "*Baptismus in hoc signo vince*"; a drawing of two joint hands. *Matrimonium*, with the motto "*Duo jungit in unum.*" A third drawing and motto, apparently referring to death, has been obliterated.

#### EXTRACT FROM ANCIENT REGISTER.

In the year 1650 is the following note: "After this time there was a general cessation of officiating in church, either for baptisms, marriage, or burial. The then vicar, William Williams, Master of Arts, being ejected by the Act of Propagation 1645, and none officiating unless some 'curat' did it in private . . . . . or buried upon their peril. In 1649 one Evan Bowen, a mason by his trade, and a [soldier] in ye garrison of Red Castle by his profession, being an illiterate man that could neither read write nor speak English, was by the Commissioners made vicar of the parish, who also did not at all officiate, nor could he wot how to do it, and that while the church and chappells belonging to Llanafan-fawr were without prayer or preaching or officiating, unless in some of them some itinerants came once in a month or quarter or year, and in some not at all during that time or as yet in 1659 and preached as they [called] it, taught say some, but how to call it for certaine none did know, neither could they throughout agree upon the name. Some said preaching, some said [teaching], some said speaking, and it may as truly said of some as it was not only said of Paul, 'What doth this babbler say' (Acts 17-18), or more truly as in Acts 29, 22, 'Some cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was out of order, and the most part knew not wherefore they were come together.' In the latter end of 1658 the former incumbent William Williams took liberty and began privately to officiate in Llanafan fawr and fath to such as came unto him." This register was regularly kept until 1694.

Llanafan fawr is in the Builth Rural District and Petty Sessional Division. It contributes the name of Llanafan to the Polling District and Electoral Division in which it is placed. The population in 1901 was 457, the rateable value £3,050, and the area 12,097 acres.

The church, which is a building of stone containing chancel, nave, porch, and a tower with 5 bells, was restored in 1886 at a cost of £1,462 and provides sitting accommodation for 200 persons. The living is returned as of the value, with Llanfihangel bryn pabuan, of £150 net with some 20 acres of glebe, and a residence. The public elementary school was built in 1867.

There is a Congregational Chapel at Troedyrhiwdalar, and this was founded in 1590, and has been made famous by reason of the connection with it of a famous Welsh preacher known as "Williams, of Troedyrhiwdalar," and a small chapel at Capel-y-Rhos.

#### LLYSDINAM PARISH.

The hamlet of Llysdinam and the village of Newbridge on Wye were in the year 1882 created an ecclesiastical parish, carved out of Llanafan fawr in Brecknock, and Llanyre in the county of Radnor.



Newbridge Church was built chiefly at the charge of the Rev. Lister Venables, and Mr. George Venables, Q.C., of Llysdim, at a total cost of £5,160; an endowment fund of £3,000 was added. The church was consecrated on July 12, 1883, is dedicated to All Saints, and is a fine building of native stone in the early English style, consisting of apsidal chancel, nave, south porch, and a tower, with lofty spire, and four bells. There are three stained windows, one of which is a memorial of Admiral Lord Lyons who died 1858, and to his sister Catherine (died 1857), and was erected by their niece Agnes Minna Venables. The others are in memory of Joseph Henry Venables and Henry George Lister Venables. There is an organ, added in 1894 by Mrs. Lister Venables. Surrounding the church which is near to the Newbridge on Wye Railway Station, is a large and well kept burial ground, and at the east end of the church is the burial ground of the Venables family.

A vicarage was built by Mr. Henry Venables, but this was not conveyed to the church; it being let to the incumbent for one shilling a year.

The new district contains 550 persons, of whom 200 reside in Llysdim. Newbridge and Llysdim are connected by a bridge over the Wye. At the former place is a railway station on the Cambrian Railway, and the village is a local centre of some importance, a considerable trade being carried on there, and horse fairs held. The church of Llanyre is three miles from Newbridge, and that of Llanafan fawr in the opposite direction.

There are at Newbridge, Baptist and Wesleyan Chapels, and an excellent National School, not parochial, established for the benefit of all persons residing within three miles of Newbridge.

In 1870, pecuniary arrangements having been made to enable the vicar to keep a curate at Llanyre, the schoolroom was licensed, and services performed there on Sunday. In 1875 an iron church was erected by Mrs. Venables of Llysdim, and her brother in law, Mr. George Venables, Q.C. In June, 1881, Mr. G. Venables offered to build a church and endow it with £100 a year; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners offered an additional £50. The widow of the late Sir Henry Venables had already built a small house as a residence for the curate; this house she offered to enlarge to make it suitable for the incumbent of the new church. After communication with the Bishop, the benevolent intentions of Mr. George Venables were entirely fulfilled to the great benefit of the neighbourhood. The family of Venables might have stipulated for the patronage, but it was determined to vest it in the Bishop of the Diocese. The church was erected by Mr. Stephen Williams, of Rhayader, architect, and was made to hold 240 persons.

#### THE VENABLES OF LLYSDINAM.

Llysdim Hall was built by Rev. Richard Venables, Archdeacon of Carmarthen, in 1829, having in 1823 and 1827 purchased the surrounding property in Brecknock and Radnor. He died 1858 leaving (by his wife Sophia, daughter of George Lister, Esq., of Grimsby) three sons—Richard Lister (in holy orders), George Storin, Q.C., and Joseph Henry Barrington. Henry died in 1866, leaving a widow Sophia Catharine daughter of John Redley of Park End, Northumberland, Esq., they had no issue. George died in 1888 unmarried. The Rev. Lister Venables married first Augusta widow of Francis Ailam, Esq., by whom he had no issue, she died in 1865; secondly, in August, 1867, Agnes Minna, daughter of the late Henry Shepherd Pearson, Esq., of the Indian Civil Service, by whom he had two daughters, Katharine Minna and Caroline Emily. His only son died in infancy. Katharine Minna Venables married Charles, son of Sir John Dilwyn Llewelyn, Bart, of Penllergare, and he assumed the name of Venables in addition to his own, and is known as Charles Venables-Llewelyn. The family name is derived from "Venables," a small town in Normandy, situate on the Seine near the Chateau Galliard of King Richard Cœur de Lion. The house at Llysdim, which stands on an eminence, has been enlarged on more than one occasion, the principal alterations taking place in 1781, when its size was more than doubled.<sup>1</sup>

The living of Newbridge on Wye was returned in 1906 as being worth £300 a year gross; and as being held by the Rev. James Herbert Alexander Griffith, M.A., who succeeded the Rev. D. E. Lloyd, to whose memory a drinking fountain was erected in the village. The register dates from 1883.

<sup>1</sup> For some further particulars of this family, and complete pedigree, see the *History of Radnorshire* (Compiled by Edwin Davies of Brecon).



## LIST OF INCUMBENTS OF LLANAFAN FAWR.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1486.—		John ap Morgan.	1720.—The Bishop.		Samuel Griffiths.
1491.—The Bishop of Saint David's		Lewis ap Meredith <sup>1</sup>	1759.—Ditto.		Richard Lewis.
1554.—Ditto.		William Powel.	1763.—Ditto.		Morgan Jones.
1578.—Rees Huet, gent. <i>pro hac vice</i> <sup>2</sup>		Richard Meredith <sup>3</sup>	1781.—Ditto.		Henry Beynon.
1619.—John Williams of Builth, Ditto <sup>4</sup>		Richard Morris.	1825.—Ditto.		Isaac Davies.
1623.—The Bishop of Saint David's		William Williams <sup>5</sup>	1826.—Ditto.		Daniel Evans.
1670.—Ditto.		William Williams.	1863.—Ditto.		Thomas Lewis.
1694.—Ditto.		Howel Griffiths <sup>6</sup>	1883.—Ditto.		John Rees.
			1893.—Ditto.		William Jones, B.A.

## LLANVIHANGEL BRYN PABUAN.

SAINT Michael Pope John, say the neighbours, because it was built in the time of a pope of that name; this definition is obvious, literal, and saves a great deal of trouble and conjecture, yet it will not assist us in ascertaining the date of its erection, because there were twenty-two popes who either bore or assumed that name at different and distant periods, but they probably had no more to do with this Llanvihangel or Saint Michael than Pope Joan; correctly it should be written Llanvihangel bryn ty buan or ty Jeuan, Saint Michael's on the hill in Saint Afan's or Jeuan's,<sup>7</sup> as it always has been considered as a parochial chapel annexed and appurtenant to Llanavan vawr.

The church is a small building situate on a hill, near the road side from Llanafan to Newbridge upon Wye, in latitude 52 15, longitude 3 23, has the same defects as most of our country churches, and therefore is equally undeserving of notice.

## ELYSTAN GLODRYDD'S MANSION.

In this parish are the mansion houses of Rhosferig and Parc ar irvon; the first was part of the possessions of Elystan Glodrydd, Prince of Ferlix or Fferreg, from whence this family seat took its name, though the demesne so far from being a rhôs or barren common, is one of the most highly cultivated farms in the hundred; the situation of the dwelling house is beautiful beyond description, the clear stream of the 'Whefri runs below in a narrow but picturesque dingle; on the banks are very productive though not extensive meadows; beyond these, on the south side of the river, is the woody knoll of Parc, whose outline forms an *arc* of almost geometrical accuracy, which is again contrasted in the back ground and on the north east by the irregular and fantastic shapes and projections of the rocks of Llanelwedd, assuming all forms but such as science describes. The old house has sunk under the weight of time, and whether it was precisely on the same spot where the present was built we know not, but certain it is that there are here many situations admirably calculated for the erection of a country residence. The present (1800) proprietor, John Lloyd, esq., the last lineal descendant of the eldest line of Elystan, has resided for many years at Aberanell in Llangammarch, another of his mansions, commanding very many picturesque views, but to which, from its distance from market, the general want of wood, and the barrenness of the neighbouring country (his own farm and the little dingle wherein the Cammarch runs near Llwynmadoc only excepted), Rhosferig, if a good house were built there, seems to be far preferable, but as Mr Lloyd is advanced in years and unmarried, we fear

<sup>1</sup> On the resignation of John ap Morgan, to whom he was to pay four marks per annum out of the produce of the living, 'till he obtained some other ecclesiastical preferment.

<sup>2</sup> He was administrator to his brother, Thomas Huet, the præcentor of Saint David's, who subsequently died without issue, and to whom, his heirs, executors and administrators, the bishop had granted the next presentation.

<sup>3</sup> His daughter and heiress married Richard Williams of Parc ar Irvon, &c., executor to his will, proved in 1620.

<sup>4</sup> By grant from the bishop of Saint David's.

<sup>5</sup> Upon the resignation of Richard Morris. This living during the civil war, in the time of Charles the First, was worth according to Walker, in his *Sufferings of the Clergy*, 110*l.* per annum. Mr. Williams was succeeded by Evan Bowen, a mason, so ignorant (says the same author) that he confessed he never read his *primmer* in English.

<sup>6</sup> He was of Devynock, and his son succeeded him.

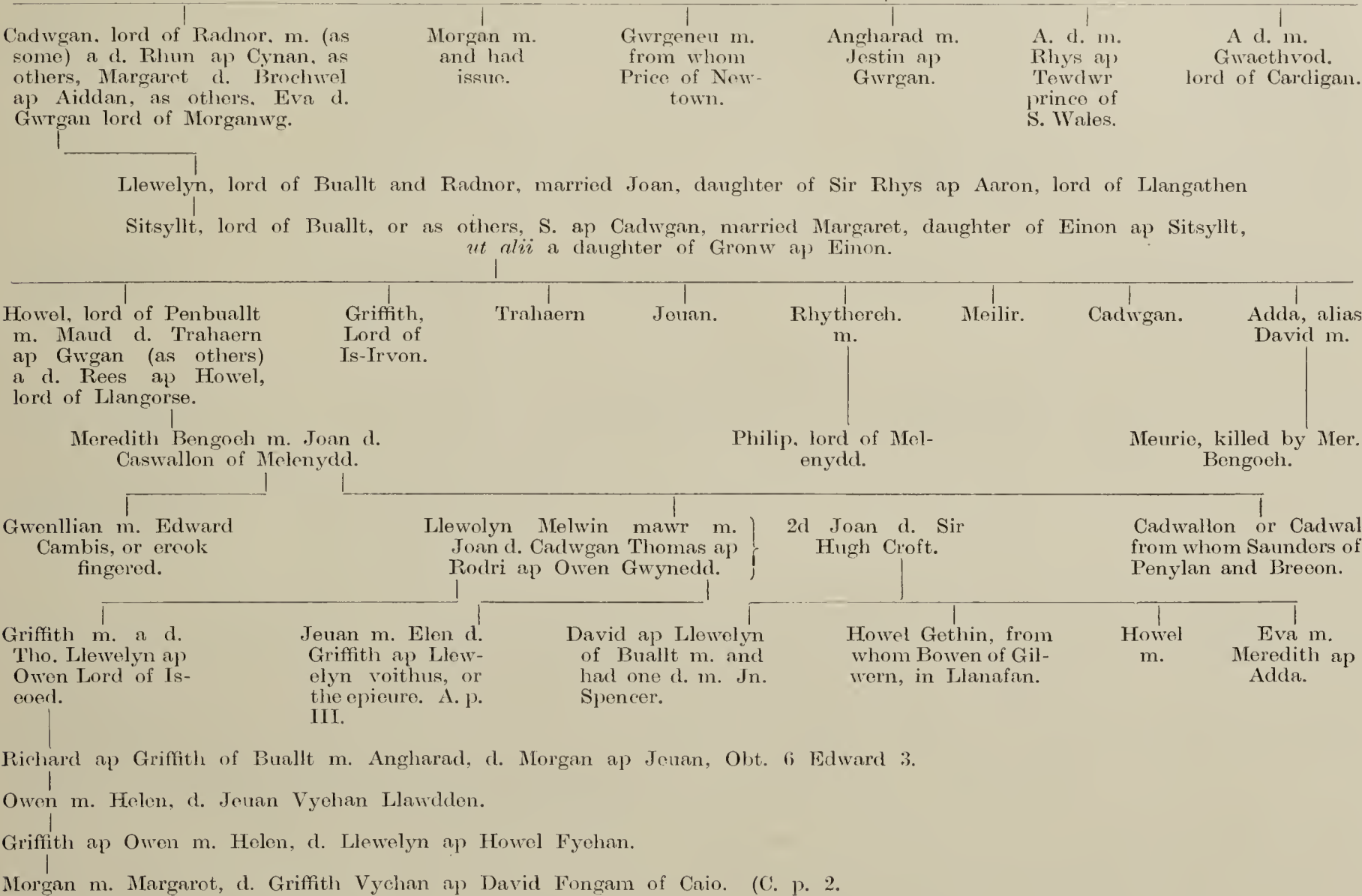
<sup>7</sup> Ty sometimes means a church or place of worship, as well as a dwelling house, as Ty Ddewi, Saint David's, we also frequently, though figuratively, call the church in English the *house* of God. In 1572, a testator at Brecon translates literally, "I give to the *house* of Saint David's 3*s.* 4*d.* and desire my wife to fulfill all things that lyeth on the part of an executrix to the *praise* of the *commonwealth*."



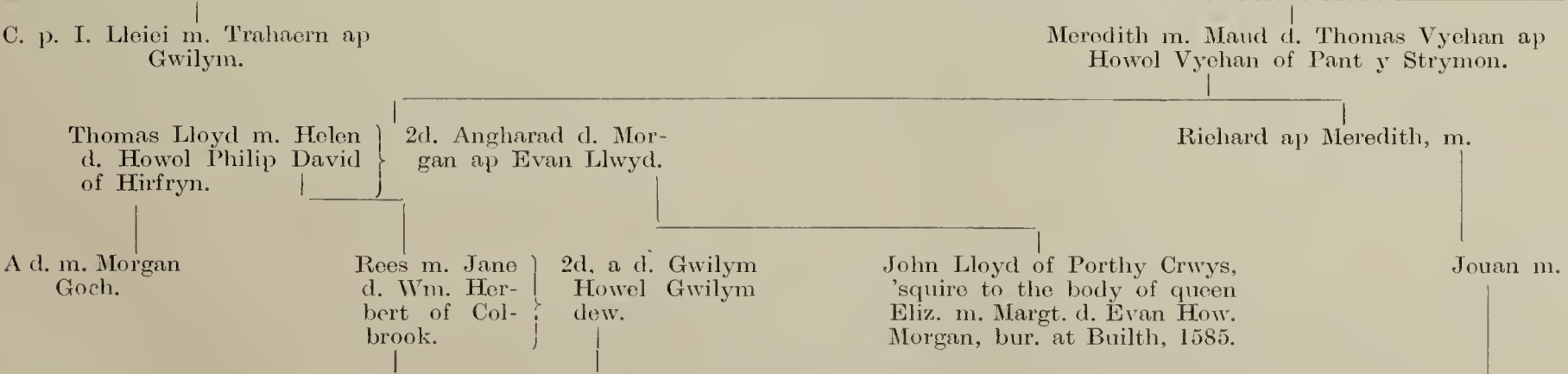
the hall of Elystan will no more resound with the voice of festivity, though at present the occupier is of considerable opulence, and is not accustomed to shut his doors to the stranger or the poor.<sup>2</sup> To preserve the memory of this ancestor of most of the inhabitants of the hundred of Builth, we here introduce the pedigree of many of his descendants and particularly of the Rhosferig family.

I. LLOYD OF RHOS-FFERREG, NOW CALLED RHOSFERIG AND ABERANELL.

Elystan Glodrydd. Athelstan the famous or praiseworthy, prince of Fferreg or Fferlex, circa 1010. married as some. Gwenllian, daughter of Einon ap Hywel Dda. as others, Gwladis, daughter of Rhyn ap Ednowen, prince of Tegengl.



II.

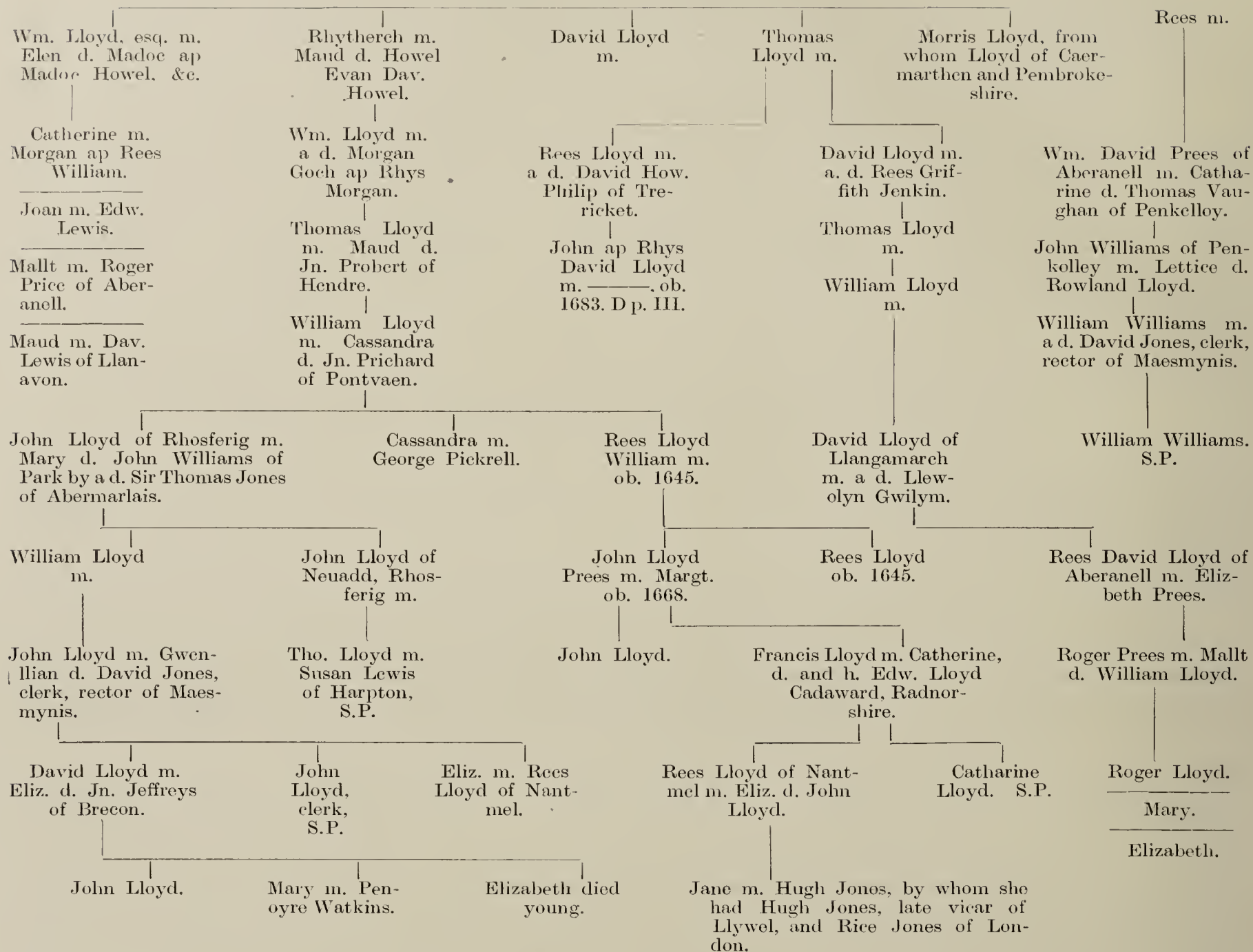


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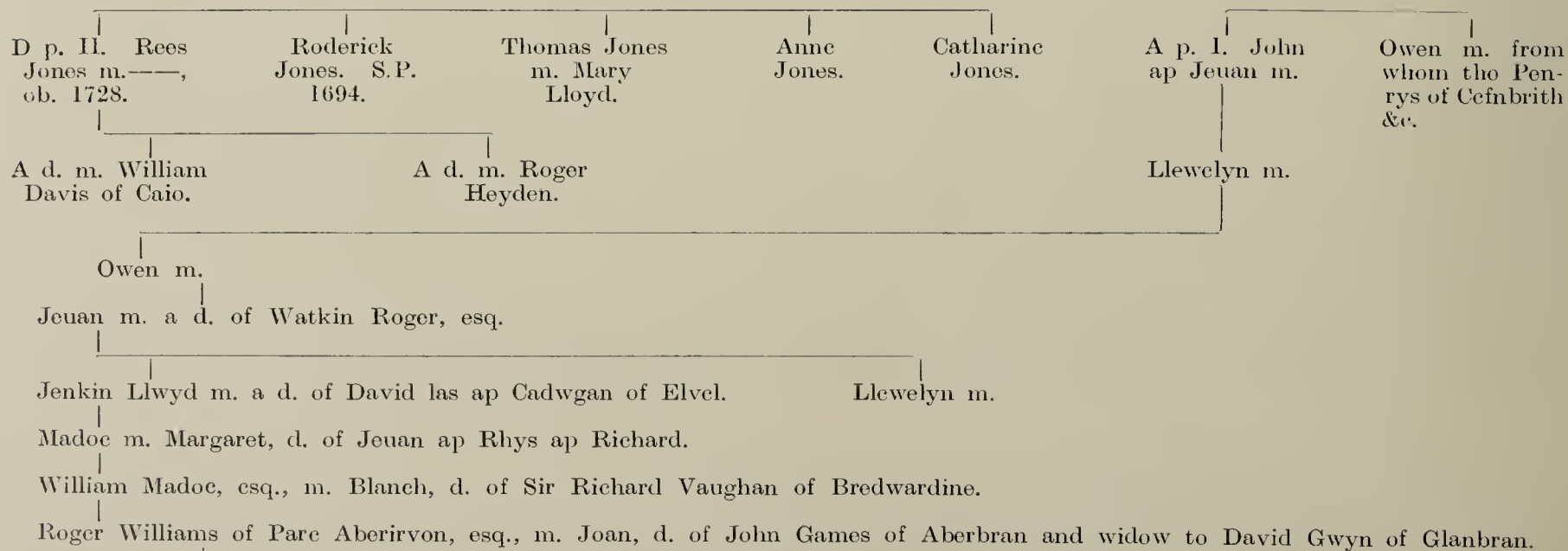
<sup>2</sup> Alas! how many are the changes and chances of this mortal life; since we wrote the above and since indeed this sheet went to press, writes Jones, the farmer to whom we alluded is no more; having been drowned in crossing the Whefri near his own house.  
We have hinted at the eligibility of Rhosferig for building, but we learn from good authority that there is a serious objection to the present situation, namely the want of water; to remedy this inconvenience the beauty of prospect must be forgotten.



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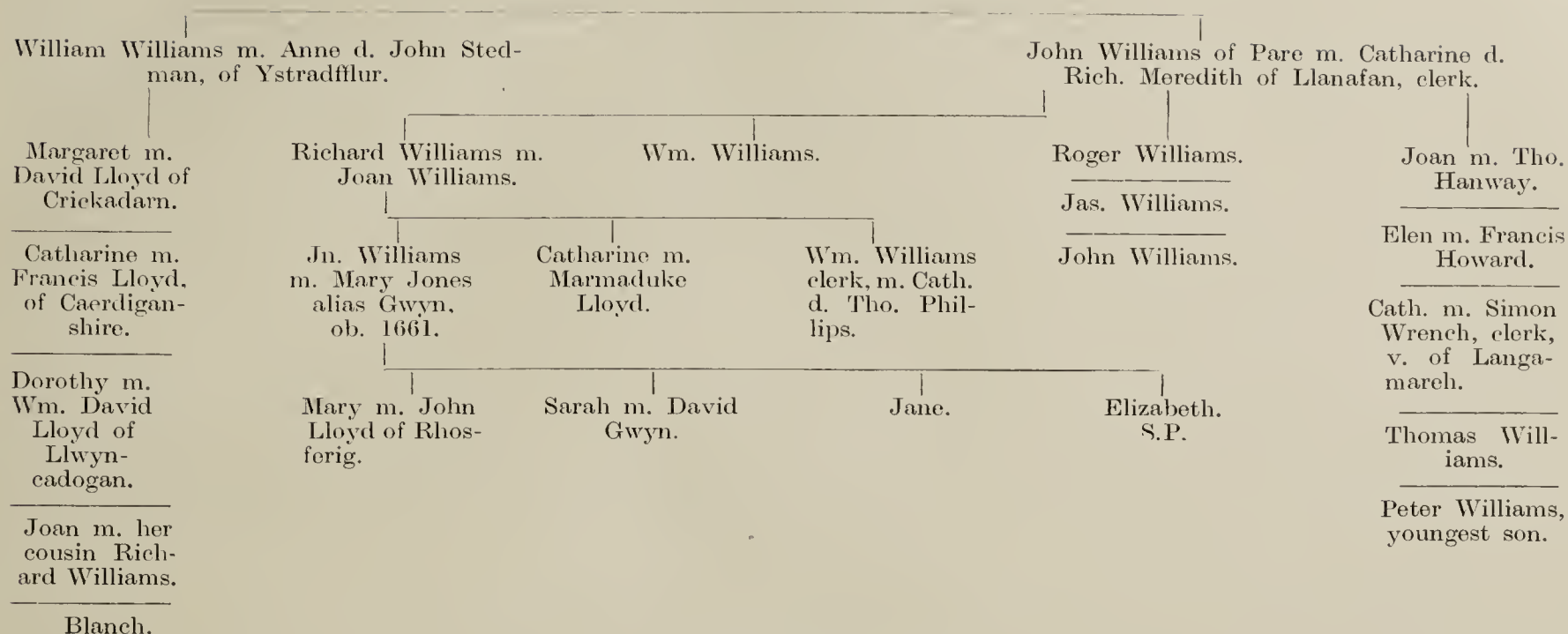
## III.



(See next page.)



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## MINERAL SPRINGS.

Parc ar Irvon, situated not far from the fall of the Chwefri into the former river, was the seat of a family who for four or five generations before they became extinct, assumed the surname of Williams; their genealogy appears above. It is now (1809) a farm house, and the property of Mr. Marmaduke Gwynne of Garth and Llanellwedd. On this tenement, near Parc wood, flow three mineral springs, within so small a distance of each other, that in attempting to cover them in, for the benefit of valetudinarians resorting thereto, it is said the labourers or masons employed in the building have caused them to run into and intermix with each other, so that it will be difficult again to separate them, the first was saline, the second sulphurous, and the third chalybeate. We know not the proportion of the particles they hold in solution, but they are not equal in efficacy to Llandrindod waters, and the sulphurous spring is far less impregnated with that mineral than the well at Llanwrtyd. It is not fashionable in the *beau monde* to fly to these waters for relief in their complaints, real or imaginary, probably from the contiguity of the town of Builth. Lodging is not so expensive as in the generality of watering places, perhaps from their comparative inefficacy, but they would probably be equally sanative with more celebrated springs, in the cases of one half of those who are in the habit of resorting to the latter to dissipate their property and waste their time.

The river Chwefri is remarkable for the abundance of its trout, which far exceed those of the Wye or Irvon in firmness and flavour; it empties itself into the latter a little below Parc house, after rising near Varlyn pool on the borders of Llanwrthwl, running through Llanavan, and skirting the southern boundary of Rhosferig. It has been derived from Chwe dwr fri, six waters above, because six streams unite in it not far from its source. Chwefri is from Chwefr, swift, and Wy, water, a compound appellation peculiarly characteristic of the general rapidity of its current; we do not know that it has any bridge over it within this parish: in the upper district is Newbridge over Wye, repaired partly at the expense of the county of Brecon, and partly of the county of Radnor.

The curacy is in the nomination of the vicar of Llanavan, has no parsonage or glebe, is not in charge, and was certified in the time of Queen Anne to be of the annual value of sixteen pounds.

"The parish register goes back to 1720, in which there is the following entry, "1719, *Evanus fil Johis Jones y major* (the major) *sepult fuit 5 May.*"

## LATER PARTICULARS.

For local government purposes, Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan is in the rural district and petty sessional division of Builth, and in Llanafan polling district and electoral division. It had in 1891 a population of 190, which was reduced to 180 in 1901. The area is 3,395 acres, and rateable value about £1,078.

There is a Baptist chapel named Pisgah.

In the Parliamentary return of 1786, a charity of ten shillings per annum is recorded to have been given by Rhys Price, but nothing is now (1900) known about this.



A writer in 1840 states that during the Parliamentary war in the reign of King Charles I., the parish suffered greatly from the violence of contending parties; the church was converted into a stable, and the font removed to a farm house, where it was used as a pig-trough. The minister was expelled from his living and for many years remained in retirement in Llanafan-fawr, but was ultimately restored to it. He also states the living was in 1840 a perpetual curacy attached to Llanafan-fawr; the tithes, including the hamlet of Rhosferrig, having been commuted for a rent charge of £203, of which two-thirds were payable to the Dean and Chapter of St. David's, and one-third to the incumbent. With regard to the mineral springs, he says "there is a neat pump-room for the accommodation of persons resorting to the place to drink the waters, which are raised from the springs by three pumps, each inscribed with the property of its respective water; and adjoining the room are some small apartments for the reception of visitors."

The present church consists of a nave of some length; there is no chancel arch, but only an ascent of one step marks the place reserved as a chancel. Nearly hidden by the choir seats is a small window, a little over a foot above the floor level, and there are also the east window and two smaller ones here. The west window is somewhat pretentious. Inside the entrance door is a holy water stoup with a quaintly carved figure above it. The ceiling is of oak, and the walls plastered. There is one bell in the turret on the west end. There is accommodation for about 60 persons, and the church was restored in 1886 at a cost of £500.

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## LLANGANTEN.

THIS church is dedicated to Saint Catherine according to Ecton, but in the pedigree of Brychan Brecheiniog we find a saint of the name of Cannen or Canten, as in the *Bonedd y Sant*, who was the grandson of Brychan, son of his daughter Gwladis, by Gwnlliw or Gunleus, prince of Glewisig and brother to Canwc, or rather Cattwc and Cammarch, to whom of course the church is dedicated. It is situated in latitude 52 11, longitude 3 21, in a small dell near the south bank of the 'Whefri. Upon entering the church it resembles an ill-swept barn, but that it might not be mistaken for a building of that description, we observed at the west end a small bell hung up and a rope appendant to it, while below was a *memento mori* not painted or daubed on the wall, as too common in country churches, but taken *after the life*: in plain English, one or two human skulls were thrown upon the ground with apparent inattention, but perhaps designedly to remind the thoughtless stranger that he was near a place of interment, and to inspire the audience during the time of divine service with greater awe and devotion. The seats and benches are here miserably decayed and broken. What is called the communion table is couped up like a small pew without a door, so that a stall fed prebendary can hardly turn round, though a lean curate may perhaps squeeze himself into it.

### PRICE OF CILMERY FAMILY.

There is no table of benefactions hung up in this church, although three pounds are paid to the poor at Christmas yearly, and ten shillings towards preaching a sermon annually on the same day, but whether from the estates of Rees Price of Cilmeri, esq., or William Price, who died in 1718, we know not. Mrs Parry, formerly Gunter of Gilston, also by her will in 1721, charged her tenement in Llanddetty with the payment of twenty shillings annually to the poor of this parish, to be paid on Thursday before Easter, in each year, with power of distress in case of neglect.

On two stone tablets affixed to the eastern pine end are the following inscriptions;

R. P.

1. Here lieth interred the body of Rees Price, of Kilmeri, esq., coroner of this county, he departed this life the 13th day of January, 1690. (Arms, Bleddin ap Maenarch impaling Elystan Glodrydd. Crest, on a wreath, &c., Rhys Goch.)

P. P.

2. Here lieth interred the body of Posthuma, the daughter of Rowland Gwynne, of Glanbrân, esq., and wife to William Price of Kilmeri, esq., and justice of the peace, she departed this life the 22nd day of April, 1712. (Arms, quarterly, 1 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 2 Brychan, 3 sable, a fess between three martlets Or, 4 as 1. Crest as above.)



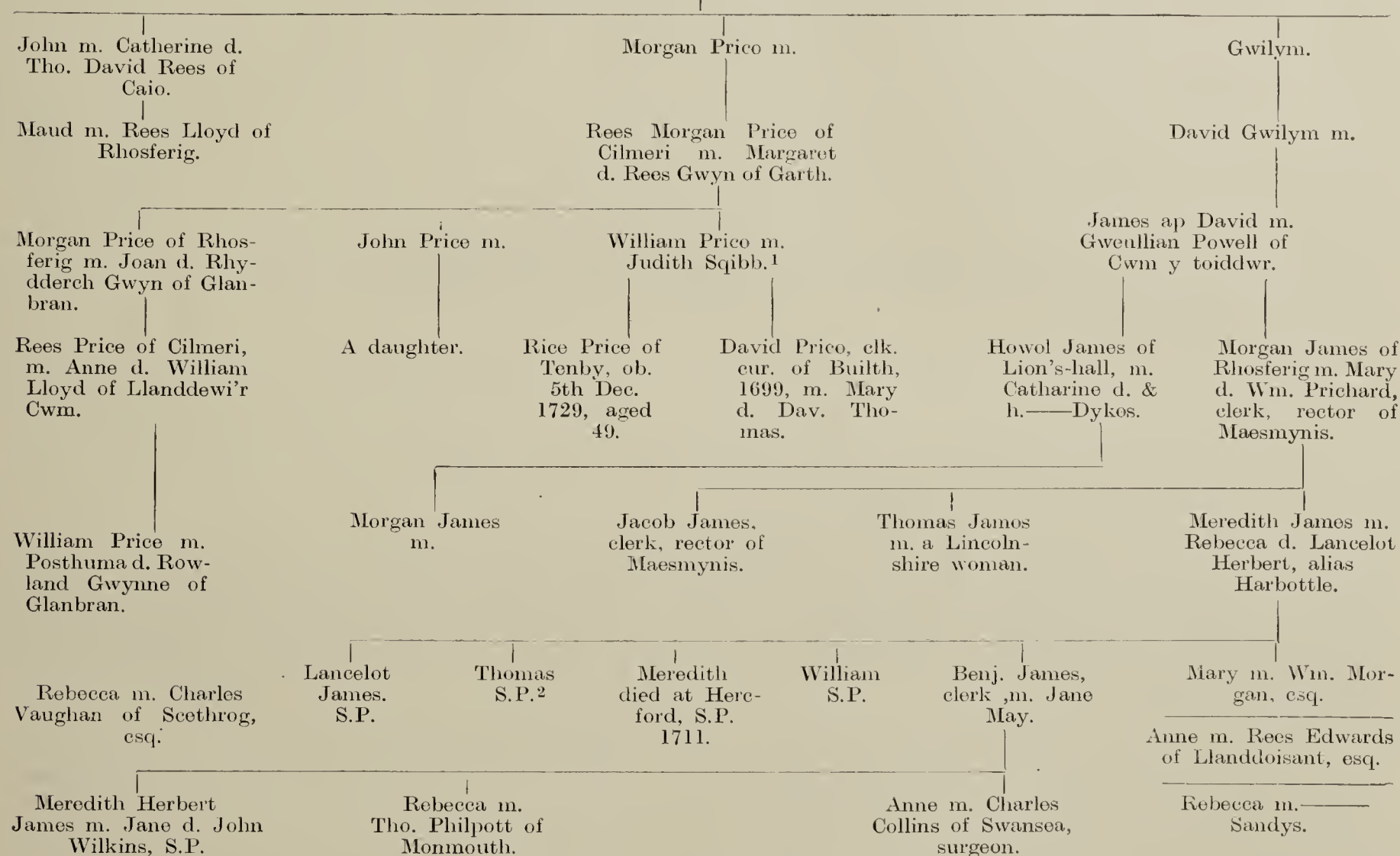
This family in the elder line is extinct; Charles Vaughan of Seethrog, who married Rebecca the daughter and heiress of William and Posthuma Price, sold the mansion and demesne of Cilmeri, in this parish, together with the remainder of the estate to Thomas Price of Builth esq., the present (1809) proprietor. As however the surname of James, which the second branch assumed, is still known in Brecon, and as it is probable some of the family, who went into Herefordshire and other counties in England and Wales, still survive, we give the pedigree.

## JAMES OF BRECKNOCK.

The same as Powel of Castlemadoc to Howel of Argoed, (who married first Margaret, the daughter of William John Havard) inclusive.

William ap Howel of Buallt, son of Howel of Argoed, by his second wife, daughter of Morgan David Lloyd.——

Rees ap Gwilym of Cilmeri married.——



## PLACE OF LLEWELYN'S DEATH.

In this parish is Cwm Llewelyn or Llewelyn's dingle, where the great and gallant Llewelyn ap Griffith was slain, as related in the first volume; the fall on each side to a small rill called Nant Llewelyn, running through it and emptying itself into the Irvon, is so very trifling and inconsiderable that it hardly deserves the name of *Cwm*, it should with more propriety be called *Pant*, the one meaning in general a deep valley, and the other a smaller depression of the surface of the ground.<sup>3</sup>

The friends and adherents of the English monarch and the lords marchers in the hundred of Builth, not satisfied with betraying their unfortunate countryman, have endeavoured to blast his memory

<sup>1</sup> Judith Squibb was the daughter of Robert Squibb of Staunton, St. John, Oxon. by Frances his wife. Mrs. Price died there, and was buried in that church, near her mother's grave, Oct. 7, 1709. (Le Neve's *Monumenta Anglicana*.) On the mural monument to her son at Tenby, she is noticed, and the following inscription is added, which alludes to some anecdote or circumstance now forgotten, "*Aquæ multæ nequunt extinguere nec possunt quidem flumina inundare Amorem.*"

<sup>2</sup> He left his estate on failure of the issue of his nephew Meredith Herbert James, to the younger sons in succession, of his nephew, William Morgan, clerk, taking the name of James upon their becoming possessed of the property under the will.

<sup>3</sup> There has been erected here, within recent years, a small stone obelisk at the expense, we believe, of Mr. Bligh, to mark the supposed spot of Llewelyn's death.



with the imputation of cowardice, for the tradition among some in the neighbourhood is, that instead of being slain at the head of his troops, or (as was probably the case) being killed by surprise, while reconnoitring the motions of the enemy on the other side of the river, he was found ingloriously lying at full length in a field of broom, and that on receiving his death's wound, he cursed the treacherous plant for not concealing him more effectually, since which time none will grow there; the execration and its effect are no doubt equally true with the prior part of the story.

#### CASTELL CAE BERIS.

About a mile or two below this spot, on a high precipitous bank, close to the river where it begins to take a circular curve, is a mound, partly natural and partly artificial, on which it is said stood a castle, called Castell Cac beris. Who this Peris was we know not, nor will any of the English writers upon ecclesiastical affairs assist the reader in discovering him, although Owen says he was the son of Helig ap Glanog, and that he was a saint and a *cardinal*, to whom the church of Llanberis in North Wales was dedicated; we lay no claim to the cardinal, nor can we admit him ever to have been a parishioner of Llanganten, and if he lived, as Owen says, in the sixth century, we are inclined to think this fortress was long prior to his time. From the natural strength and inaccessible approach to it on the south, assisted by the labour of man, in rendering it equally unassailable on the north and east, before the use of gunpowder was known, and from the appearance of the soil at the top of the mound, which for some inches on the surface resembles burnt wood, we believe it to be an ancient British tower or castle constructed entirely of wood, perhaps the only one of which any vestige is left in Breconshire, and here we think it is probable Llewelyn must have stationed a few of his troops to prevent the enemy from crossing the river below him, and to guard the pass on the banks on the other side, for both of which purposes it was admirably calculated; having thus far, however, indulged in conjecture, it must be reserved for the discoveries of future historians to confirm or confute those opinions or *probabilities*.

The soil of this parish, where it is cultivated, is principally argillaceous, and the practice of husbandry much the same as in Rhosferig, but there are also several boggy and unproductive commons, intermixed with and intersecting the inclosed lands. The banks of the Irvon are in general well wooded, and several picturesque views are seen on its borders. Over this river, about half a mile above its *aber* is a neat stone bridge, erected about 1785 at the expense of the hundred, the inhabitants of which district are liable to its repairs.

This together with Llangynog, is a perpetual curacy, to which the lessee of the prebendary of Llandarog in Christ's College in Brecon nominates, the latter has the impropriate tythes of both parishes. Llanganten has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty but it has neither a parsonage house or glebe belonging to it. It was valued in Pope Nicholas's taxation at £4 6s 8d; tenths 8s 8d; and in Queen Anne's time at £5. The register book goes back to 1769, and the curacy is not in charge in the Liber Regis.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

A mineral spring was discovered in 1831 on the banks of the Whevri; it is covered when the water of the river is high, a circumstance which may account for its having remained unnoticed before that time. In 1840 the living was described as a perpetual curacy endowed with £1,000 Royal bounty, net income £64, in the patronage of the Bishop. There were also four acres of glebe, but no parsonage house.

The church of St. Cannen is now (1905) a building of stone and consists of chancel, nave, porch, and a turret with one bell. It was restored in 1880, and there is accommodation for 100. Llanganten has received from Queen Anne's Bounty, by lot, augmentations, each of £200, in the years 1739, 1767, 1786, 1790, 1809, and 1827; and since that time further augmentations to meet benefactions, viz.,

1895.	Subscriptions .. ..	£100	Diocesan Society .. ..	£100	Queen Anne's Bounty .. ..	£200
1899.	Ditto .. ..	£100	Ditto .. ..	£100	Ditto .. ..	£200
1903.	Ditto .. ..	£100	Ditto .. ..	£100	Ditto (parsonage) .. ..	£120

The vicarage is now of the value (with Llanafanfychan annexed) of £129 net, with residence, and is in the Bishop of St. David's gift.

The bequest by Rees Price of Cilmeri now realises £2 10s. 0d. annually for the poor, and 10s. annually for a sermon.

The population in 1891 was 187, and this had increased in 1901 to 205. The area of the parish is 2,258 acres, and its approximate rateable value £1,300. It is in the rural district and petty sessional division and polling district of Builth, and in the electoral division of Rhosferig.

Cilmeri Park is now the seat of Stanley Price Morgan Bligh, Esq., J.P., a barrister-at-law, and a member of the Brecknockshire County Council.



## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1574.—		Rhys ap Gwylm, curate.	1740.—	Bishop of Saint David's.	Evan Powel, Llanganten only.
1661.—	The Bishop of Saint David's.	Griffith Hattley called preb. of <i>Llanganten</i> !	1769.—		Rico Williams.
1665.—		John Rubbege, curate.	1775.—	Jane Holcombe, lessee of the tythes.	Thomas Davies, Llanganten only.
1682.—		Walter Bengough, Llanganten only	1789.—		Rico Price.
1695.—		Thomas Jones, ditto.	1807.—		Benjamin Howell.
1699.—		David Price.	1817.—		Isaac Davies.
1720.—		Rees Prothero.	1835.—		Essex Holcombe.
1725.—		Evan Powel, Llanganten only.	1863.—		Edward Jones.
1738.—	Dav. Prichard, lessee of the tythes.	Rice Williams.	1868.—		William Atterbury Thomas.
			1877.—		David Davies.
			1902.—		Herbert Davies, B.A.

## LLANVECHAN or LLANAVAN VECHAN,

## Or SAINT AVAN'S the Lesser.

IS another parochial chapel attached to Llanavan vawr; this is a small church, partly covered, like several others in this hundred, with small slips of wood resembling tiles called shingles, and partly with stone. It is on the northern side of the road from Builth to Llandovery, at the distance of about six miles from the former town in latitude 52 11, longitude 3 26. There is nothing in the appearance of it to gratify the pious Protestant, or to detain the learned antiquary. In the churchyard, divided from the turnpike road by a very indifferent fence, is an altar tombstone, to the memory of "Samuel Evans de Gwaravog *in hoc Com Ar*, ob. XVI. *Julii* M.DCC., LXXIX. Æ. LXIII." Near him, "Beatrice relict of Joshua Price of Alltmawr, gent. ob. 23 January, 1780, *ætat* 59; Richard Price, of Rhosforlo, gent., died 1770, *ætat* 59, and Elizabeth his widow died at Bristol, 27th June, 1787, aged 63." This family, now (1809) settled at Builth, were originally of Llanvihangel and Llanddewi Aber-gwessin: they are of the tribe of Elystan Glodrydd, but as they settled at Rhosforlo at a time when the power and consequence of heraldry was expiring, a link or two is wanting to connect them with the ancestors of Lloyd of Rhosferig, Williams of Aberanell, and Williams of Parc-ar-Irton.

## A DORMANT BARONETCY.

In this parish is a tenement called Dol y 'menin, the property of Samuel Price, of Brecon, esq., one of the coroners for the county; of this family, we apprehend, were the baronets Price of Jamaica, now extinct, or at least the title is dormant; the first noticed in Kimber's baronetage is Francis Price who went to and settled in that island in 1655: the last of that house who bore the rank of baronet was Charles Price, who married Mary, daughter of — Sharpe, and left a son, Charles Price, who died without issue; their arms were, sable, a chevron erminois, between three spears' heads argent, their points embrued proper. Crest, Rhys Goch, which proves them to have been descendants of Cradoc Fraich fras, and not of Elystan Glodrydd, the general ancestor of the men of Builth. Francis Price, of Ludlow, who was one of the family, died in 1737, and administration of his effects were granted to the late Samuel Price of Dol y 'menin (father of Samuel Price) his cousin german and next of kin.

## CWM GRAIG DDU DINGLE.

A narrow slang or slip of this parish crosses the river Irvon to the south, which is united in the assessments to the land and window tax, with the hamlet of Gwarafog, in the adjoining parish of Llanlleonvel. At the extremity of this projection is a tremendous precipice called Cwm graig ddu, the vale of the black rock, terminating a narrow dingle from thence called Cwm graig ddu, the view of which from above or below is equally interesting, though it occasions very different sensations. Seen



from the road side near the top of the rock, though it is not well clothed with wood, the ideas of comfort and shelter from the storm, which the inhabitants of the valley enjoy, naturally occur, while the almost impending rock when viewed from below, is awfully yet sublimely *terrific*. On the north side of the Irvon, near its banks, are some picturesque groves and fertile meadows within this parish, but the general appearance of the district, as we travel through it, is similar to that of Llanganten, as is also the course of husbandry, though the general nature of the soil certainly does not improve, proceeding upwards against the course of the Irvon.

This curacy, in which the vicar of Llanavan generally officiates, is not augmented, and has no parsonage house or glebe; it is not mentioned in Pope Nicholas's taxation, but is certified in the time of Queen Anne to be of the annual value of thirteen pounds. The register book goes back to 1721, and the curacy is not in charge.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

The living of Llanafan fechan is a perpetual curacy now annexed to that of Llanganten, and it is of the joint net yearly value of £129. Seventy years ago it was described as a curacy annexed to the living of Llanafan-fawr, the tithes being commuted for a rent charge of £115, of which the vicar of Llanafan-fawr received one third, and the Dean and Chapter of St. David's two thirds, and the church was then in much the same state as in Theo. Jones's time. The church now consists of a nave, porch, and a tower with one bell, and is capable of holding 60 persons.

The population of Llanafanfechan in 1891 was 146, and in 1901 it had decreased to 129. The area is 2,783 acres, the rateable value being about £1,070. It is in the rural district and petty sessional division of Builth, and in the polling district and electoral division of Llanafan.

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### LLANLLEONVEL.

THE name of this parish is of very doubtful origin and derivation, we shall therefore only hazard a conjecture, with much diffidence, that it may have been Llan lleon voel, the church upon the bare tract, through which a vicinal branch of the Sarn Lleon or Chester road passed, connecting Muridunum with the station at Cwm, and there uniting with the principal Sarn Helen from Neath to Chester. We do not find that it commemorates the name or seeks the patronage of any guardian saint or protecting angel. Ecton erroneously calls it Llanllowenwell, and observes that it is a chapel to Llanwrthwl; it has been also written Llanlloenfel, but all the names are equally unintelligible. This little church is covered partly with tiles and partly with shingles; it is situated on a small eminence on the north-west side of the river Dulas, in latitude 52 12, longitude 3 28. While the family of the Gwynnes continued to reside at Garth, this fabric was a pattern for imitation to the neighbouring inhabitants, to which, however, they paid little or no attention the moment the esquire quitted the parish, and ceased to recommend and to adopt it. The roof was neatly ceiled, the floor well flagged, the seats painted white and regularly arranged, the Garth seat at the west end, was covered with green baize, and the pulpit, though not adorned with costly carving, was plain, neat and convenient, but now (in 1809) the hand of time and the neglect of the guardians of the fabric, proceed with equally systematic certainty to deprive it of its superiority over the other churches; the ceiling is falling, some of the flag stones and tiles are broken, and the windows are out of repair. In a few years the following coats of arms and epitaphs will probably be effaced or obliterated, or, perhaps, washed over with white lime, should an attentive and *beautifying* churchwarden be appointed.

#### THE GWYNS OF GARTH.

On a stone tablet affixed to the eastern pine end, above the communion table, are the arms borne by Judge Gwyn in a shield on a mantle, 1 Elystan Glodrydd, 2 partie per bend ermine and ermines, a lion rampant sable, armed and langued gules (Gwilym of Glâsewm, descended from Tydyr Trevor) 3 Cadwgan ap Elystan, 4 Havard, 5 argent, a lion rampant sable, armed and langued gules, 6 Vaughan of Tyle glâs, 7 Or, a lion passant gules, 8 argent, a lion and griffin combatant, azure, 9 Havard: on a helmet of his degree attached to a shield by two straps and a wreath of his colours is the crest, a lion



rampant regardant holding a boar's head in his paw *Or*, above the motto in a scroll, "*Fortitudo animi prudentia in periculis*," and below, on the same tablet, is the following epitaph:

P. M.

Marmaduci Gwyn de Garth in Com. Brecon, Armigeri et juris consulti qui propter incorruptam fidem, raramq. (qua fuit) in legibus explicandis dignam Annæ Magnæ Britanniae, &c. Reginae videbatur qui constitueretur iudex qua dignitate ita usus fuit ut dum extiterit sceleris vindex justissimus non oblitus fuit miserorum patrocini post multum tandem res magnas pro republica plurimum desideratur obiit anno ætatis septuagesimo, Christi millesimo septingentesimo decimo secundo. Ro familiari ea prudentia qua fuit aucta donata Marmaduco Gwynne (filio maximo natu Hoelli Gwynne de Brynyoye in Com. predict. Armigero) ejus impensis gratitudinis ergo conditum fuit hoc monumentum."

On a stone now placed in the eastern window, "Infra conditi sunt cineres Marmaduci Gwynno filii natu maximi Marmaduci Gwynne de Garth Armigeri quem ex optima ejus indole nil esset quod non merito expectarent omnes eripuit mors indignum ratus humano generi felicitatem contigisso qualis quantusq. fuit cum pietas recordandum statuoret prohibuit notus res tantas recurrero ne nimios patriæ luctus renovarent hoc... mihi dicendum liberius judicari priusq. autem uberius ingenii quisquam autem .... doctrinæ moriturus sit fore ita uti ipsa mors moriatur ætatis suæ 32." (His father's arms.)

On the same wall southward, arms, in a mantle quarterly Brychan and Marchell, the rere-mice azure, clawed and beaked gules, the field *Or*, crest on a helmet of his degree and a wreath of his colours, a clenched hand, proper, holding a dagger hilted *Or*, piercing a boar's head argent. Motto on a scroll above the helmet, *Vim vi repellere licet*. Beneath the arms is the following inscription:—

Hoellius Gwynne de Brynyoye in comitatu Brecon armiger qui splendidissimam sui gentis originem iis virtutibus ornavit quæ spectabilissimam reddere possunt inquilinum, tanta enim erat erga omnes benevolentia, tanto erga patrem officio, tanto erga conjugem amore tanta erga liberos pietate quantam, si ausus sim describere minuerem, sufficit ut dicam inter omnes quos sibi devotos habuit inimicum non reliquisse vitam tam bonam tamq. honestam non indigna mors subsequuta est ad repellendam enim mortem cum valuerent nec Virtus nec Fortitudo oi animi constantia morbum sustinuit acutissimum quæ apparuit ita se vixisse ut vitæ non puderet, ita quasi vix motueret moriturum obiit 15mo Feb. A.D. 1708. æt 40." <sup>1</sup>

On a broken stone below: "Marmaduke Gwynne, Esq., æt 37, obiit April 22, 1786." In the church yard, "Mary Leyson, obiit April 12, 1760, æt 29." "Rev. Joshua Thomas, vicar of Kerry, obiit ———." "Rev. Joshua Thomas, of Queen's College, Oxford, obiit ———."

#### FAMILY POSSESSIONS.

The first named Marmaduke Gwynne, who died in 1712, is generally said to have acquired the whole of the property since possessed by this family, and his parents and ancestors are supposed to have lived in a state of poverty, but this is not correct. His ancestor, Rhys ap Jeuan ap Rhys had for his second wife a daughter of Sir William Herbert of Colbrook, and was possessed of more than one half of the parishes of Llangammarch and Llanlleonvel. He died in 1545, and devised Cefnllan and Garth to one of his youngest sons; his eldest son, Evan, was the first who took the name of Gwyn, and his son is styled Rees Gwyn, *esq.* The judge's father was coroner for the county, and he, as well as his progenitors, married into and were connected with the most respectable families in the county, though it is certain that he was not so opulent as his son whom he placed in one of the Inns of Court to study the law, in which he made such progress that he was appointed a judge on the North Wales circuit. His professional talents however are not known or remembered with respect in the Principality, whatever abilities he may have displayed in Westminster Hall; but even if they were equal to those of the great Lord Bacon, he is suspected to have had also similar failings, for it is said that this "most rightful judge, this unright judge, this second Daniel," was not proof against corruption. So much for the impartiality and veracity of panegyrists and epitaph writers; another instance of the kind will occur when we come to Llansaintfread. Judge Gwyn married a daughter of a Peter Gwilym of Glascwm, who settled as a merchant in London, with whom he had a fortune of twenty thousand pounds; this, together with the profits of his profession, enabled him to purchase or mortgage the greatest part of the hundred of Builth, and at that time a mortgage and purchase meant very much the same thing, as the mortgagor seldom redeemed or recovered his estates. He likewise purchased the manor of Builth from Sir Thomas Williams, the first baronet of the Eltham family; this transaction was conducted in rather a tortuous and circuitous manner. Mr. Gwyn was agent for the estate, and his employer wanting money, was supplied nominally by Mr. Gunter of Trevecca, on mortgage of the manor. During this time the name of Rees Gwyn continually appears as foreman of the jury at the courts leet, protecting and defending the rights of the tenants, and resisting many of the claims of the lord; the value of the property was depreciated, the difficulties of collecting the chief rents exaggerated and the inhabitants represented as turbulent and litigious. By these means Sir Thomas Williams was induced to sell the equity of redemption to Mr. Gunter, who soon afterwards appeared to be only a trustee for Mr. Gwyn, who, when he came into possession, took care rigidly to support his claims and authority.

<sup>1</sup> We are not responsible for the *latinity* or *classicality* of these and *all* the other epitaphs in this publication; some of them are so obliterated by time, that they may have been incorrectly copied.



## GWYN OF MAESLECH AND GARTH.

The same as Lloyd of Rhosferig to Griffith ap Llewelyn moel-win-mawr, inclusive.

Rees of Dol y gaer, younger son of Griffith m.  
Mallt, d. Jenkin Griffith Madoc.

Richard m. Jenet d.                      Jeuan m.  
Gwilym ap Henry.

Rees m. Tanglwst d. Jeuan Lloyd of Llanfair,  
she afterwards m. Morgan Thomas Lloyd of  
Llywel.

Jennet m. Howell ap  
Meylyr.

David m. from whom Evan  
Jones of Southwark.

William m. from whom the  
ENGLISH EARL CADOGAN.

Jeuan m. a d. David Lewis ap  
Cadwgan of Elvel.

David Lloyd from whom  
Lloyd of Caerau.

Margaret m. Madoc ap  
Jenkin.

Rees m. Gwenllian d. Tho. hir of Baili brith,  
2d, a d. Sir William Herbert of Colbrook.

Jeuan Gwyn of Maesleeh, in Llanlleonvel  
m. ob. 1574.<sup>1</sup>

Rees Gwyn, esq. m. a d. Rees David Lloyd of Allt yr hebog.

John Gwyn.

Thomas Gwyn.

Evan married Anne, a daughter of James Penoyre.

Rees Gwyn of Garth married Sibil, daughter of Lewis Lloyd of Criccadarn, secondly Frances, widow of John Vaughan of Penkelly.

Marmaduke Gwyn, a judge on the North Wales circuit, m.  
Mary d. and co-heiress Peter Gwilym of Glasewm, in  
Radnorshire, ob. 1712.

Margaret m. Rees  
Morgan Price of Cil-  
meri.

Marmaduke Gwynne ob. S. P.  
vita patris.

Mary d. and heiress m.  
Howel Gwynne of  
Brynioie.

## CUSTOMS OF THE LORDSHIP.

The payments to the lord and the customs in this manor, which is coextensive with the hundred, are some of them singular, and the meaning of *all* of them not clearly comprehensible. The Tâl diestyn, Comortha, Vuwch Larder and Porthant herwyr, known in this hundred, have been before explained and are understood, not so with Maccwyn and Mabryddiaeth. The former we apprehend was a payment to be exempted from rearing and breeding dogs for the lord, *tâl yn lle magu cwn yr arlwydd*: it amounted to two shillings and one penny at Michaelmas yearly, and is only charged upon one tenement called Cefnbrîth in Llangammarch. Mabryddiaeth, though not found in any dictionary, we conceive to be synonymous with Maboliaeth, infancy, and was payment upon the infant heir at law's attaining the age of manhood, and being admitted into possession of his estate; this is charged on lands south of the Irvon, in the district called Trevlys, formerly comprehending parts of the parishes of Llangammarch and Llanwrtyd, and upon Llysdimam, but the township called Brynrhydd, the tenements called Bryncarthog and Cefngast, and the hamlet of Clawddmadoc are by old presentments declared to be exempt from this charge. A certain description of the inhabitants of this hundred are entitled to an exemption, the nature of which as described in old presentments is easily comprehended, though the terms in which it is expressed continue to be unintelligible, notwithstanding the assistance we have sought and received from our most learned countrymen.

A presentment by a jury in 1646, of which Rees Gwyn, father of the judge, was foreman, states that "the customs of the said lordshippe is that noe man's sonne dwelling within the said lordshippe ought to be summoned to doe their fealtie within the said courte as long as their fathers be alive, if their fathers be seized of lands within the said lordshippe; for that sonnes are to be called in

<sup>1</sup> He calls himself Jeuan ap Rhys ap Jeuan in his will. All our pedigrees inform us that he married *Joan*, daughter of John Games of Aberbran, his wife was another daughter of John Games, named Elizabeth, and in the Games's pedigree, this Jeuan is called Jeuan ap Rhys of Buallt.



the Welsh tongue, *Gwrthkinffiaid o Ffaint!*—<sup>1</sup> *Al-gi-beronti-phosco-phormio ! ! !* There are no copyhold tenures in this manor, and the chief rents are collected for the lord by the parish officers.

Marmaduke Gwynne, son of the judge, died in 1702, leaving behind him an honourable name and estimable character, upon the death therefore of the father, the Garth property descended to his daughter, who married Howel Gwynne of Brynioiau, by which event, two estates were united, which have been since divided between the families of Garth and Glanbrân. The mansion of Garth is now (1809) let to an English farmer, whose example and practice will we hope improve the wretched system of husbandry hitherto prevailing in the greatest part of this country.

#### A MINERAL SPRING.

Not far from this house, after crossing the river Dulas, in a field below the church, is a spring resembling in taste and smell the well at Llanwrtyd, though not so strongly impregnated with sulphur, for which however, it has been frequently substituted, and particularly by the servants of Garth, who, when sent for the Llanwrtyd water, sometimes loitered about the church, and returning with water from this spring, made a merit of their expedition. The northern part of this parish is chiefly a common or Rhôs; on the banks of the Irvon are some cultivated inclosures and meadows, and on the southern side of the river is a mansion called Gwarafof, or summer bank, which is the name of a hamlet in this parish, comprehending all the lands on that side of the water, extending to Epynt, in a narrow slang, and separating the parish of Llanfechan on the east from Llangammarch on the west.

Through this parish, nearly from north to south, and crossing the turnpike road to Llandovery, passes a highway from Llanvihangel Abergwessin and the wilds of Caerdiganshire to Brecon; a few yards above which, as it crosses by a bridge over the Irvon, the Dulas, rising on the borders of Llanwrthwl and intersecting Llanavan for some miles, empties itself into the former river. Dulas is generally derived from Du and glâs, black and blue, or blackish blue, from the colour of the water; this definition says the etymologist is obvious: admitting that now and then it may be correct, it is not always incontrovertibly so. Clais is a stream, trench, rivulet, or sheltered channel consequently Dulas may sometimes, especially when the water springs from a turbary, mean the black stream.<sup>2</sup> Over this river are two bridges, and there is also another over the Irvon on the road to Brecon, all of which are repaired by the inhabitants of the hundred.

This parish is a perpetual curacy, to which the lessee of the tithes, under the prebendary of Llanwrthwl, nominates; it has been augmented four times with Queen Anne's bounty, but has neither parsonage or glebe.<sup>3</sup> The certified value of the curacy was only £2 13s. 4d. and the register book goes back to 1764.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

Seventy years ago Llanlleonfel was described as a perpetual curacy endowed with £800 royal bounty, of the net income of £60, and in the patronage of the Bishop of St. David's; but having neither glebe nor parsonage house. Its present value is £51 gross, net £40, and in the same patronage, but there are four acres of glebe. The vicarage is now held with that of Llangammarch.

The church is an ancient one of stone, with chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret with three bells. In 1873, £900 was spent in restoring the building, which affords accommodation for 60 persons.

In Llanlleonfel are two Nonconformist Chapels, "Salem" Particular Baptists, and "Beulah" Independents, built in 1842, with 300 sittings.

The population of this parish in 1901 was 94; its area 1508 acres of land and water, and rateable value £722.

Gwarafof, a township in this parish, has an area of 1,151 acres, a rateable value of £722, and a population in 1901 of 40.

Llanlleonfel Llwyn Madoc public Elementary School was built in 1865, with accommodation for 100 children.

Garth House is the family mansion of the Maitland family (*See Parliamentary History*), but at the time of writing it was rented to the Hon. Richard Clere Parsons.

<sup>1</sup> In his corrections, Jones remarks:—"Formidable as this phrase appeared to my friends and myself, the whole difficulty vanishes when we reject the *inimical* G and give the *friendly* W the lead, Wrth eyn (neu cynt) piaid (neu piawd) braint, by primæval possession of the privilege or exempted by immemorial or prescriptive right. Those who understand the Welsh language will comprehend my meaning in attaching the above epithets to the G and W."

<sup>2</sup> On the turnpike road, says Jones, leading from Builth to Llandovery, and near the fall of the Dulas into the Irvon, is a public house called Maes y genffordd, where the magistrates acting for the hundred, hold their meetings, and here, though there is but one house, are seven fairs annually, Sept. 28th, April 18th, May 31st, July 10th, Sept. 23rd, Nov. 2nd and December 3rd.

<sup>3</sup> Walker says this living as well as Llanganten was vacant seven years in the time of Charles the First. *Sufferings of the Clergy*, p. 163.



LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1573.—		Rhys Thomas.	1759.—		Thomas Davis, assistant curate.
1587.—		Morgan Jones.	1759.—		Samuel Thomas, ditto.
1625.—		Rees Meredith.	1767.—	Tho. Evans of Pennant, esq. lessee.	Thomas Davies.
1632.—		Rowland Williams.	1792.—	Mich. Cope Hopton, esq. lessee.	Rice Price.
1681.—	The Bishop of Saint David's.	Evan James.	1804.—	Ditto.	Thomas Williams.
1694.—		Roger Lloyd.	1811.—	Ditto.	Rees Williams.
1728.—		Theophilus Evans.	1848.—	Ditto.	Harry Morgan.
1739.—		Joshua Thomas. <sup>1</sup>	1866.—	Ditto.	John Rogers.
1748.—		Theophilus Evans.	1872.—	Edward Thomas, esq., Wellfield.	Earle Montague Welby, M.A.
1749.—	Owen Evans of Pennant, esq. lessee of the tythos.	Rice Price.	1884.—	The Bishop of St. David's	Preb. D. E. Williams, B.A.
1757.—		Joshua Thomas.			

LLANGAMARCH or LLANGAMMARCH.

NID oes on'd glas ffoesydd  
A Mawn-dwr y mynidd  
I wel'd mcwn llwm gymydd  
Llangamarch.

Nought but the bog's deceitful green,  
And black turf-water can be seen,  
Llangammarch's barren vales between.

“Having lived in this parish for some years,” writes Theophilus Jones, “and possessing a small hereditary property, to which I am very much attached, where neither bog or turf water can be discovered, and where the verdure of the meadows on the side of the Irvon can hardly be excelled in any country, I protest against the poet’s satire, and am enraged at his assurance. Indeed I only insert it for the sole purpose of contradicting it; but this will be best done when I come to a brief survey of the soil and aspect of the parish.” The church is situated on a projecting rock, covered in some places with a pretty thick layer of earth, between the two rivers Irvon and Camarch, near the fall of the latter, in latitude 52 11, longitude 3 30: it is dedicated (if the name be not from the river and if it do not signify the Church upon Camarch) to St. Cammarch, another of the grandsons of Brychan and of the sons of Gunleus. The building now consists of a nave only, though not many years ago a northern aisle was taken down under faculty from the ordinary, at the petition of the inhabitants; it is covered with shingles, under which are boards and transverse ribs, but the whole is in a wretched state of repair.

Under a *board* upon a decayed wooden frame, which is used as a *communion table*, is a tombstone, the inscription on which is scarcely legible, but by the initials W. Ll., we believe it was meant to commemorate the interment of one of the Lloyds of Caerau, about the year 1600: adjoining it is a tombstone to the memory of Morgan Prosser of Llwyn y fynwent, gent., who died March 5, 1700, he had issue by Sibil his wife (daughter of David Evans, of Corrin), Thomas Roger, David Rees, and John: “Here lieth also the bodies of two of the children of the said Thomas by Mary his wife, daughter of Hugh Penry of Llwynceyntefin; here lieth also the body of the said Mary, ob. 1758.” leaving issue William, John and Samuel; Roger their son died in Cowbridge. Here lieth the said Thomas Prosser, ob. 1741.” (Arms, 1 a lion rampant, 2 three fleur de lis, 3 Vaughan, 4 Bleddin ap Maenarch.)

Near these tombs was another with the following inscription, since effaced: “Here lieth the body of Thomas Meredith Penry, paternally descended from Elystan Glodrydd, prince of Ferlix, who married Gwenllian, daughter of Howel David Thomas, they had issue Meredith, Hugh, Rebecca, Rees, Elizabeth and Nest, he died the 10th day of March, *Anno Domini*, 1620.

In the churchyard Rees Powel, Aberdylas, *obiit* 1765, aged .74; Mary his wife, 1743, aged 51. (Arms, 1 three goats’ heads erased, 2 Bleddin ap Maenarch, 3 a chevron between three gerbs, 4 Elystan Glodrydd.)

On a tombstone near the stile, entering from the east, “M.S. of the Reverend Mr. Theophilus Evans, late vicar of this parish, and also of Saint David’s in Brecon, he died September 11, 1767, aged 73.”

There is no table of benefactions here, or *mem.* of any sum received for the use of the poor,

<sup>1</sup> He was of Penpio in this parish.



ANTIQUITIES OF THE PARISH.

LLOYD OF CAERAU, BRECON AND LLANCAMDDWR.

William Lloyd m. a d. Thomas Vaughan of Tregunter.      Watkin Lloyd m.      Morgan.

Thomas Lloyd ut dic. m.      David Lloyd ut. dicitur m.

William Lloyd m.      Rees Lloyd m. a d. Roger Thomas of Llangamarch.

Rowland Lloyd m.      Elinor m. John      Jenmet m. —      John Lloyd m.      Roger Lloyd of Llanca-

Margaret d John      William.      Price.      Cath. Vaughan.      ddwr, m. a d. of Howell

Tho. David.      Prytherch of Cefnbrith.

William Lloyd of Caerau m.      Dav. Lloyd m.      A d. m. Thomas Gregory.      A d. m. —      John m. & had one daughter.      Roger Lloyd m. Barbara d. Francis Jones of Tregib.

Cath. d. Jn. Williams of Abercamlais.

Charles Lloyd. S. P.      Francis Lloyd m. Eliz. Vaughan of Yscirfechan, widow.      Barbara m. Lewis Lewis of Langadoc.      Roger m. Roger Lloyd.

Thomas Lloyd m.      John Lloyd, clerk, vic. of St. David's m.      David Lloyd m. a d. Peter Evans of Llanfaes.      A. m. d. Thomas Jones.      Margaret

Thomas Lloyd of Brecon, ob. 1753. S. P.      Tho. Lloyd m. Sarah Holmes.      Peter Lloyd m. Eliz. Meredith.      William S. P.      Magdalen m. Rees Powell of Maesmynis.      Margaret m. John Watkins.

Sarah m. John Bullock, called John Bullock Lloyd.      Anne m. Tho. Williams apothecary, of Brecon.      John Lloyd S. P.      Peter Lloyd, S. P.      Elizabeth.      William Lloyd died single.

Thomas Bullock Lloyd m. — Webb of Gloucestershire.      A daughter.      Anne.      Anne m. Wm. Davies of Aberdihonw.      Margaret.



## ANCIENT MANSIONS.

Aberanell at present meets with a fate the reverse of that of most of the other mansions, for instead of being converted into the dwelling of a tenant, as it was four or five generations back, it is become the residence of the proprietor; it takes its name from the fall of the little rivulet, Anell, into the Camarch, and this brook again derives its appellation from *An*, in Irish water, and *Allt*, a cliff, the water from the cliff, corrupted at first into Anellt and since into *Anell*. Before the present possessor Mr. Lloyd, to whom the estate was devised by his relation the late Mr. William Williams, the family here for three generations bore the surname of Williams, though they are of the same tribe as Lloyd of Rhosferig, as will be seen on reference to that pedigree.

At Maes y Onn, or Ashfield, on the south west of this parish, a respectable family of the name of Price have continued to reside, who were in the habit formerly of connecting themselves with the Prossers of Llwyn y fynwent and Penrys of Cefnbrith, for several successive generations, hence the names of Roger or Rosser and Penry continually occur. The male branch of the family of Cefnbrith failed in the father of the late Mrs. Powel of Castlemadoc, and upon the death of her daughter, the late Miss Catherine Powel, the estate was purchased by Mr. Price, who has since sold it. Llwyn y fynwent, or church yard grove, was evidently contiguous to an old church, though no remains of it now appear, this we apprehend to have been the fabric wherein the tenants of the abbey of Strata Florida attended divine service, notwithstanding that it is at present within the parish of Llangamarch; upon the failure of the male issue of Prosser in the last generation, it descended to Thomas Stephens, esq., of Kinnard in Radnorshire, whose mother was of the name and family of Prosser.

Lancamddwr, so called from the windings of the Irvon near this place, was the family seat of a junior branch of the house of Caerau. Upon the death of Francis Lloyd, without issue, it passed to his sister, Barbara, who married Lewis Lewis, the grandfather of the present Mr. Lewis of Gwynfe in Caermarthenshire. Llyncadwgan has been for centuries an insignificant farm house, but it was in the reign of Elizabeth, the paternal inheritance of the ancestor of the present noble family of Cadogan. The reader will see in the pedigree of Gwyn Garth, the descent from Elystan Glodrydd to Rhys ap Richard of Dol y gaer; the names have been horridly mutilated and disfigured by Edmondson, in his *Genealogy of the English Peer*, in which, however he introduces to us a son of this Rhys, omitted in some of our Welsh MSS.; this was William ap Rhys of Dol y gaer, who is said to have married Jane, daughter of William Barrie, by whom he had—

William Cadwgan, or of Llwyncadwgan, married Lucy, daughter and heiress of John Gunter ap Jenkin Gunter.

Griffith Cadwgan married Jane, daughter of William Kemeys.

Philip Cadwgan married Alice, daughter of John Glandon of Llanddewi.

William Cadwgan married Jennet, daughter of Evan Morris.

William Cadwgan of Trostre in Monmouthshire, married Catherine, daughter of Howel——

William Cadwgan married Anne, daughter of George Arnold.

Henry Cadwgan of Trostre, married Catherine, daughter of Thomas Stradling.

William Cadwgan of Dublin married Elizabeth——

Henry Cadwgan or Cadogan of Dublin, died 13th January, 1714, having married Bridget, daughter of Sir Hardress Waller; his son William was created baron *Cadogan of Oakley*, in the county of Bucks, in 1718; from henceforward we leave this pedigree to the English heralds, who will no doubt take due care of them.

## JAMES HOWEL AND BISHOP THOMAS HOWEL.

That voluminous writer and eccentric wanderer James Howel, author of the *Epistolæ Hoelianeæ*, *Lexicon*, *Tetraglotton*, *Londinopolis*, *Dodona's Grove*, &c., &c., was born at Cefn Bryn in this parish, as was his elder brother Thomas Howel, bishop of Bristol. Their father Thomas Howel was curate of Llangammarch from 1576 to 1631, when he was presented to the living of Abernant and Cilvilgaio in Caermarthenshire, he married a granddaughter of Chantor Huet of Llanafanfawr.

Thomas Howel entered at Jesus College, Oxford, as a scholar in 1604, at the age of sixteen, he afterwards became a fellow there, took the degree of master of arts; being admitted into holy orders was made a chaplain in ordinary to Charles the First, rector of West Horsley, in Sussex, and of St. Stephen's Walbrook, D.D., and a canon of Windsor in 1636. Being driven from his livings by the puritans, though Wood says he was accounted by some a puritanical preacher, he was nominated by Charles the First to be Bishop of Bristol in 1644, and consecrated at Oxford by Archbishop Usher, Primate of Ireland, and others, after which, according to Walker, he met with most barbarous usage from the rebels; his palace was stripped of the lead that covered it, at the time his wife was in



labour, converted into a malt-house, and they threatened, as it is said, to put up a furnace for brewing in the cathedral, in the place where the altar was situated. These and other indignities offered to the established religion, as well as to himself, are supposed to have occasioned his death in 1646: he is buried at Bristol cathedral, without any inscription upon his tomb, save the word "*Expergiscar*." Walker says he was much beloved in his see, that the city took upon them the care of his children; what became of them or whether any of their descendants remain we know not, our pedigrees neither notice his marriage or issue.

James Howel was born in 1594, entered at Jesus College, Oxford, in 1610, having been first taught the rudiments of grammar at a free school at Hereford. "Being a true cosmopolite (says Wood) and not born to land, lease, house, or office," he went abroad to travel, being allowed a little money by his father for that purpose. In 1622 he was sent to Spain to endeavour to recover a rich English ship, seized by the viceroy of Sardinia; what success he had does not appear, but soon after his return he was retained as secretary, by Scrope, Earl of Northumberland, and, through his interest, chosen member for Richmond in 1626, afterwards employed on an embassy to Denmark, and, in the beginning of the civil war, one of the clerks of the council, but being of an extravagant turn he was imprisoned in the Fleet for debt, where he had sufficient leisure to attend to his studies, and to bring out many of his publications, "having nothing to trust to (says the above author) but his wits, and to the purchase of a small spot of ground upon Parnassus, which he held in fee of the muses." In this, however, he seems to be mistaken; for it turns out that he paid rent for it to Cromwell, whom he flattered in hopes of his release, but without success. Upon the Restoration he was appointed historiographer royal, an office first made for him, but without any salary or emolument! He was therefore obliged to have recourse to writing for his bread, at which employment he laboured so hard, that Wood gives us a list of between fifty and sixty of his publications; his motto was *Senesco non segnesco*. He died in the beginning of November, 1666, and was buried in the Temple Church, soon after which a monument was placed near his grave, with the following inscription, which was removed in 1683, when the church was repaired: "Jaeobus Howel, Cambro-Britannus, Regis Historiographus in Anglia primus, qui post varias peregrinationes tandem naturæ cursum peregit, satur annorum et famæ; domi forisque hueusque erraticus his fixus 1666."

## FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE STEDMANS.

Dolgaer was the residence of a family of the name of Stedman. The pedigree of this house is disgraceful to the annals of the principality, and the heralds who preserved and copied it servilely from each other. The original ancestor is said to have been *Calcarbus or Calcarba, duke of Arabia*, who was exiled with his son Stedman and daughter Clarisia by the tyranny of the king of the country! They add that the duke died in the expedition to the holy land in the crusade of Edward the First, and that the son following the fortunes of that monarch, was made knight of the sepulchre, and imprisoned with him on his return home. Part of this tale may be true. Stedman, without the affectation of punning, *may* have received this appellation from his steadiness and fidelity to his sovereign, and *may* have been an Asiatic, and the domestic of the Enthusiastic Richard, during his captivity; if so, we trust that the name of Stedman will be substituted in the drama of *Cœur de Lion*, instead of Blondel. Richard, it is said, gave his faithful adherent for a wife, Joan, daughter of Sir John Tatsall, knight.

## I STEDMAN OF DOL Y GAER.

Stedman served in the Crusades under Richard I., was made knight of the sepulchre, taken prisoner with him by the Archduke Leopold, and afterwards enlarged.

John Stedman of Kent, m. Anne, d. James Foster.

John Stedman of Berkshire, m. Anne, d. James Chetwynd.

William Stedman, m. Frances, d. Sir John Marshal of Yorkshire.

Thomas Stedman, m. Elinor. d. William Wille, lord of Wille.

John Stedman of Staffordshire, m. Margaret, d. Sir William Stafford.

Harry Stedman, m. Margaret, d. Andrew Cotten.

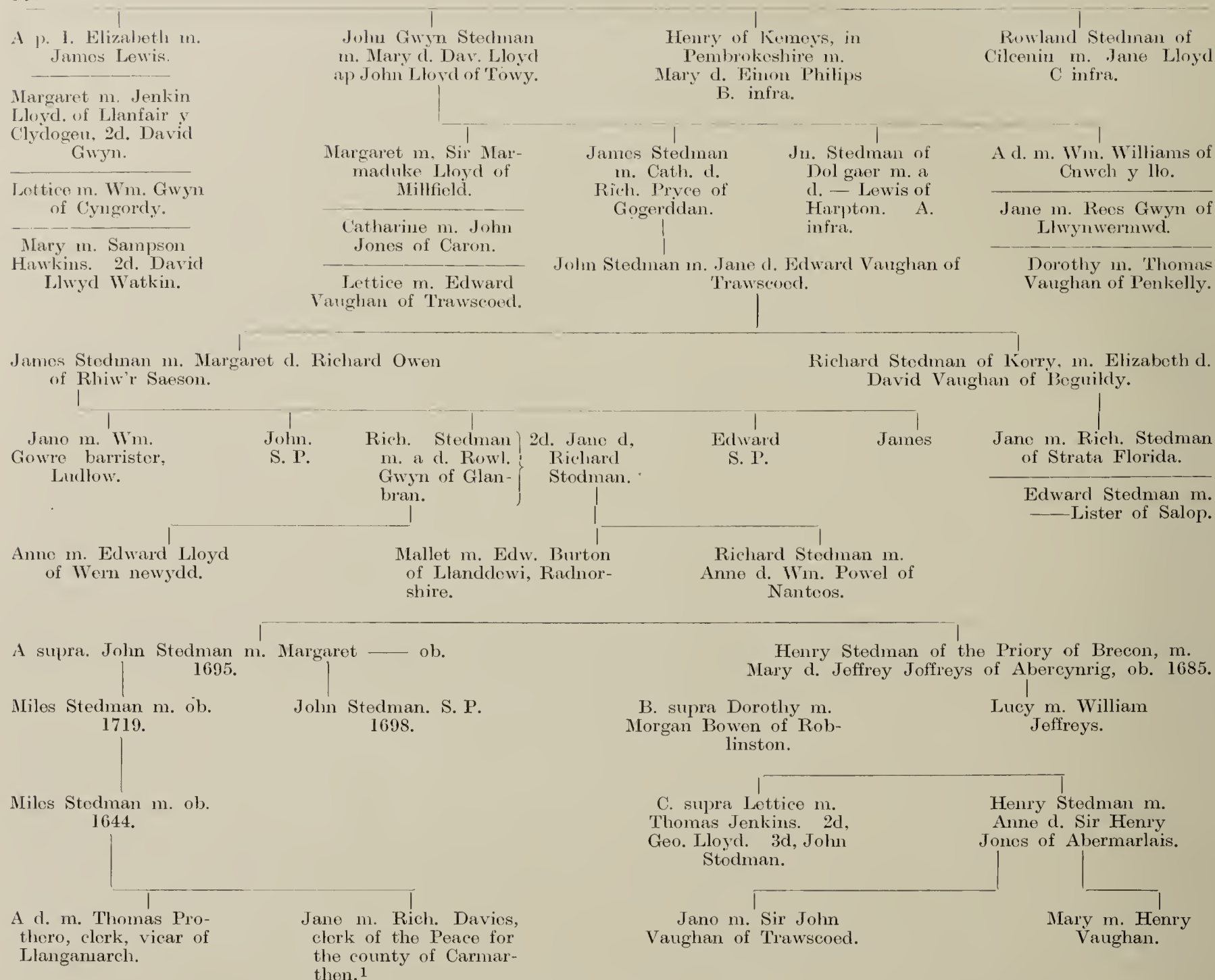
Humphrey Stedman, m. Catherine, d. William Hill of Bickley, Com. Salop: he is the ancestor of Stedman of Berkshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire.

John Stedman, m. Joan, d. of John Lewis of Salop.

John moel Stedman, or J. Stedman the bald, of Ystradfilur, or Strata Florida, in Caerdiganshire, m. Anne, d. William Philips of Pant y parc. A p. II.



## II.



REV. THEOPHILUS EVANS, AUTHOR.

"I do not presume to rank the farm house of Llwyneinion, in this parish, with the mansions before enumerated," writes Jones, "but it will involuntarily intrude itself upon my notice, not only from my prepossession in favour of the place, but as having been the residence of my late revered, learned, and respectable grandfather, Theophilus Evans. He was the fifth son of Charles Evans of Pen y wenallt in Caerdiganshire, and the first child by his second wife, Elinor Beynon of Llangoedmore, widow; he was, I have no doubt, of the tribe of Gwynfardd Dyfed, the general ancestor of the inhabitants of this part of the country, but I have no wish to trace the family higher than Griffith ap Jeuan Jenkins, who died about the middle of the seventeenth century, at a very advanced period of life. Tradition says, he was upwards of one hundred years old at his dissolution. His son, Evan Griffiths, was a warm and steady adherent of the unfortunate Charles the First, and from that circumstance he was generally known among the puritans, by the name of captain Tory; he is said to have been a man of great stature and personal strength, insomuch that resting upon his hands and knees, applying his back to an axletree, he lifted up a cart fully laden with hay, and a place is still shewn where he threw a leaden plummet, of five or six pounds weight, to the distance of nearly one hundred yards. When the republicans became successful, he was imprisoned in Cardigan castle, for his exertions in favour of his sovereign: hearing, during his confinement, that his wife had been brought to bed,

<sup>1</sup> Their son, Stodman Davies had by Barbara, daughter of William Williams, of Ivy Tower, Richard Stedman Davies and Morgan Davies, the latter died single; the former had by a daughter of Thomas Thomas, two infant daughters, Jane and Elizabeth, who now (1809) inherit part of the Llangamarch property.



without any inquiry as to the sex, he exclaimed, 'The child shall be christened Charles, by G—d.' That child happened to be a boy, and being named according to his father's directions, was the father, by two wives, of five sons and three daughters; by his first wife, who was of Gorslwyd in Blân y porth, Cardiganshire, he had Samuel Evans, who was a private tutor in the family of the Rev. Philip Henry, of Broad Oak in Salop, and the early instructor of the learned and pious commentator, Matthew Henry; he died without issue. John Evans had a daughter and heiress, who married John Griffiths, and was the mother of the present (1809) John Griffiths of Pen y wenallt. Jonathan Evans went into America; Josiah Evans left one daughter married to Richard Pritchett, clerk of Richard's castle, Worcestershire; Theophilus Evans married Alice, daughter of Morgan Evan or Bevan of Gelligaled, in Glamorganshire, by whom he had issue three sons and two daughters, one of the latter was my (Theophilus Jones's) mother, married to the late Hugh Jones, vicar of Llywel: the sisters of Theophilus Evans were, Sarah, married to Richard Pritchett of Narberth, surgeon, father of the late subchanter of Saint David's, Margaret married Samuel Jones of Glaspânt, and Charity married ——— Evans of Ponteinon.

"Theophilus Evans was born in 1694, ordained deacon in 1718, and priest in 1719, by the then bishop of Saint David's; the intimacy between his countrymen, Lloyd's of Millfield and the Gwyns of Garth, induced him to settle in Breconshire; his first curacy was Tyr yr abad, he then went to Llanlleonvel and was domestic chaplain at Garth, to which house he continued warmly attached during the whole of his life. In 1728 the bishop gave him the small rectory of Llanynis, which he held for ten years and resigned upon being presented to Llangammarch. In 1739 he had the living of Saint David's in Llanfaes, which he held to the time of his death. In 1763 he ceded the living of Llangammarch in favour of his son in law and successor Hugh Jones, clerk, who afterwards exchanged it for Llywel. Thus much may suffice for the history of his professional labours and preferments; few are the incidents in general in the life of the divine or the philosopher deserving public attention. However interesting many of them may be to their relatives or connections, the fame of the scholar can only live in his works; that fame is frequently posthumous, and its duration, like the life of man, is almost equally uncertain, subject to be blasted suddenly by the *sirocco* of malicious satire, or to suffer a lingering death from the neglect or versatility of human opinions, or the infatuated pertinacity of popular prejudices.

"The Reverend Theophilus Evans's first publication, in 1739, was in Welsh, and intitled *Pwyll i Pader*, &c., being an exposition or comment on the Lord's prayer, in several sermons, after the manner of Bishop Blackall, to which he has prefixed an elegant Latin dedication to Sackville Gwynne of Glanbran, esq., to whom he pays a proper compliment for his zeal in the encouragement and promotion of the worship of God, by the erection of the very neat church of Tyr Abot; he then concludes with a prayer to the Deity, that as his patron had until that day lived in a mansion situated in a rich soil and in the fat of the land, nourished and fertilized by the dew of heaven, after a length of days spent piously and happily in this world, when his eyes were closed in death, he might be awakened by an angel of life in the realms of bliss. In 1739 he published his *Drych y prif oesoedd* or 'A Mirror of Antient Times'; this is a brief chronicle or history of the Britons, *beginning with the dispersion of Babel*, 'and who do you think (says he) talked Welsh at that time? Why, Gomer, the eldest son of Japhet most assuredly:' from this period he traces them to the arrival of Brutus in England, follows them until the extinction of the line of the British princes, and concludes with a short dissertation upon the British language and a history of the church. This book has been more read and more admired by the inhabitants of South Wales than any other ever published in the language, unless it be *Llyfr y Fficcar Llandyfri*, and it is still as great a favourite as ever in this part of the principality: a third edition has lately been published at Merthyr Tydvil, in Glamorganshire. It certainly displays much reading and great learning, but it preserves the memory of transactions which may as well be forgotten, brands the character of the Saxons with infamy, in terms which modern amenity of manners has, perhaps very properly, reprobated and almost exploded, and continues to *entail* upon the Welsh an inveteracy which liberality, as well as sound policy, should induce them entirely to eradicate from their minds.

"His next publication, in 1752, was in English, and entitled, 'A history of the modern enthusiasm;' another edition was published in 1759, both of them are now long out of print. In this work he treats sectaries of all descriptions with great severity, but quotes their own authors and instances their own leaders, for what he conceives, their most objectionable principles and their worst actions. It would not be here pertinent to enter into a discussion as to the prudence or the efficacy of this attack, the motive was undoubtedly good; convinced, as fully and as firmly as he was of his existence, of the orthodoxy of the established church, he felt it his duty, as a member of that establishment, to prevent by timely warning, the reptition of those calamities produced by fanaticism in the generation next preceding him, of the recurrence of which he seems to have been apprehensive from the spread of an enthusiasm equally mischievous, though assuming a different



garb, artfully fomented and encouraged, as he apprehended, by the church of Rome, and appearing to be disseminated widely and with great industry within the principality in his time; on any other subject and on any other cause he may be truly said to have been

——— of affections mild,  
In wit a man, simplicity a child.

“He had perhaps as much of the milk of human kindness, as any man who ever lived: of the value of money he knew little, books were his only treasures, and employed the greatest part of that time in which he was not engaged in the duties of his holy function, and in this character he was remarkably eminent. Many of the sectaries whom he condemned heard his exhortations with pleasure, if not with improvement, and his sermons are even now recollected with rapture; he had a method of bringing his arguments home to the feelings of his auditors, without descending to low or familiar phrases, which were peculiarly persuasive, as well as impressive upon the memory, but however interesting this well deserved panegyric may be to me, I perceive it may not be equally so to the reader; I therefore hasten to return to the description of this part of the hundred.”

#### DESCRIPTION OF PARISH IN 1809.

The soil of this parish on the west and south is mountainous and boggy, and here the turbary water may certainly be frequently seen stagnating at first, but running down the steep descents of Epynt in cataracts into the Irvon: unproductive as this tract and these bogs generally are, the inhabitants are indebted to them for the principal part of their fuel. It has been before observed that no coal has been found or probably ever will be discovered in this hundred, when therefore that substance is consumed, they are obliged to send for it to Brecon at the distance of fifteen or twenty miles, over roads so bad and uneven that waggons or carts can scarcely travel upon them. For this reason they are compelled to resort to their turf pits upon Epynt, to which all the householders of the hundred have a right: it is cut and dried in the summer, and then brought down and stacked for winter fuel. Descending from Epynt into the vales of Llangammarch, the northern face of the mountain, as before observed, is extremely steep and somewhat precipitous, but the view from the summit is so far from conveying the idea of the poverty of this country, that it appears, and particularly in the summer time, luxuriant and picturesque; a beautiful verdure and several groves of valuable timber adorn the banks of the Irvon from Llancaemddwr to the fall of the Dulas, near Maes y genffordd. The soil in the vale is chiefly argillaceous, and the stone in this, as well as other parishes in the hundred, very ill calculated for building or repairing the roads. It consists principally of two sorts, one a blue shale, which comes off in thin lamina, the other an ash coloured induration of clay, called rab, which can hardly be said to be stone, for when exposed to the air, it crumbles to dust, and returns to its original particles again, to regain perhaps in the course of ages, its feeble powers of cohesion.

On the south side of the Irvon, Dulas empties itself a mile or two above Llangammarch, and at the village of this name, after a remarkable curve, in which it runs several yards contrary to the course it pursues after it is united with the Irvon, the Camarch comes in on the north. If Cammarch be the patron saint, it has lost its original name, for in all probability the river ran in its present course long before the good man was born, and in that case it may, like a small brook just mentioned above, have been called Camddwr. The present name if spelt with a single *m*, means much the same thing, from *cam*, winding, and *arach*, a channel from the Irish *ar*, to guide or conduct, *arwain*, to lead, *W. ar* and *aru*, to plow, *W* and *I*, i.e. to channel, or form channels, hence *Arrow* or *arwy* in Herefordshire, &c.: over this river there is one bridge, and another over Irvon, both leading from the village of Llangammarch, and both repaired by the hundred. A considerable quantity of sheep and some cattle are annually reared in this parish and the mountains adjoining.

The living is in the collation of the bishop of the see, who as treasurer of Christ's College in Brecon, has the impropriate tithes, granted to him by 12th Anne, in lieu of mortuaries: it has two acres of glebe attached on the north side of the Camarch, about half a mile from the church, but no house, although there was one in 1543; for Rhys ap Jeuan ap Rhys, by his will in that year, gives his wife a mill in Llangammarch and lands “*near the vicar his house.*” In Pope Nicholas's taxation it is set down at £13 6s. 8d.; tenths, £1 6s. 8d. The certified value, according to the printed return of the commissioners, was £30 0s. 0d.; tenth, 17s. 9d., according to Ecton, £27. Clear yearly value in the king's book £8 14s. 7d. Archdeacon's procurations 7s. 11d.; the living is discharged, and the parish register goes back to 1763.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

In 1840, the parish church of Llangammarch was described as being in a very ruinous state. The living was then a discharged vicarage, with the perpetual curacies of Llandewi-Abergwessin and Llanwrtyd annexed, and of the annual net value of £209. A separation from Llanwrtyd took place in 1870. In 1890 there was a restoration at a cost of about £200, and the present church of St. Cadmarch is a building of stone in the modern Gothic style, having a chancel, nave, north aisle,



south porch, and a belfry with one bell. About 1900, a stone was discovered here in one of the walls, with some early carving representing a wheel, an infant with arms extended, and a coiled serpent. The living is now a rectory of the net value of £250, with three acres of glebe and residence, in the gift of the Bishop of St. David's.

The parish churchyard contains the mortal remains of Theophilus Jones the Historian, a biography of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Llangammarch has its railway station on the Central Wales section of the London and North Western Railway, and is in the Petty sessional Division of Builth. The population in 1901 was 688. The place has now some celebrity on account of its Barium springs, which are said to be the only springs of this kind in the kingdom. The springs rise through clefts in a mass of rock close to the river, into which they formerly ran to waste. A well has been constructed upon the rock and machinery erected for elevating the water into the baths, and to provide a supply for drinking purposes; the flow is equal to 600 gallons per 24 hours. The water possesses a peculiar saline taste, is quite neutral to test paper, very slightly opalescent, and contains practically no carbonic acid in solution. The Lake Hotel, surrounded by ornamental grounds, affords salmon and trout fishing for visitors, and also the privilege of shooting over some thousands of acres of mountain and moorland. The Cammarch Hotel is near to the railway station. The development of the mineral water of this district began some 25 years ago, when the late Mr. William Smith, agent for the Maitland family, interested himself in the matter.

The Report of the Charity Commissioners mentions the following benefactions:—Margaret Jones, by will dated 22nd May, 1782, left the interest of £400 3 per cent annuities, subject to certain life interests, to keep a free school in Llangammarch for ever; also the interest of £200 to clothe the poor; the interest of £50 for an annual dinner for the trustees on November 1st, and the interest of £100 to clothe poor children in the parishes of Llangammarch and Llanwrtyd.

The public elementary school was erected in 1878.

Penbualt is a township on the road from Builth to Llandovery with an area of 11,134 acres, and a rateable value of £1,344; the population in 1901 was 433.

Treflys township is on the river Irfon on the main road from Builth to Llandovery, and had a population in 1901 of 481. Its area is 7,090 acres, and rateable value £2,944.

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1410.—Richard Keryr, clerk, Abergwli.		Sir Lewis, or as others, Sir John ap Gwilyn Llwyd of Castell Hywel. <sup>1</sup> Thomas ap Howel.	1661.—The Bishop of St. David's 1678.—Richard Lucy, prebendary, &c.		Thomas Jones. <sup>4</sup> Himself.
1493.—Wm. John, treasurer of Abergwili and prebendary of Llangammarch.		Owen ——— John Morgan.	1685.—The Bishop of St. David's 1709.—Ditto. 1712.—Ditto. 1738.—Ditto. 1763.—Ditto. 1768.—Ditto. 1769.—Ditto. 1773.—Ditto. 1804.—Ditto. —.—Ditto. 1833.—Ditto. 1870.—Ditto. 1876.—Ditto.		Francis Beal. <sup>5</sup> Richard Prichard. <sup>6</sup> David Price. Theophilus Evans. Hugh Jones. <sup>7</sup> Thomas Prothero. Samuel Bevan. Richard Davies. Thomas Williams. John Evans. W. Jenkins. David Lloyd Isaac. D. Edward Williams.
1503.—Walter Jones, treasurer, &c.		John Howel.			
1556.—Thomas Huet, p. h. v. <sup>2</sup> 1576.—Griffith Toye, prebendary &c.		William Powel. Thomas Howel.			
1583.— 1631.—Elias Wrench, prebendary, &c. <sup>3</sup>		Rces Williams. Simon Wrench.			

<sup>1</sup> When or by whom presented is uncertain; he was the eleventh in descent from Tydwal gloff, who was wounded in the siege of Cardigan, *circa*, A.D. 878. Tydw. Gloff's Book.

<sup>2</sup> By grant from Walter John or Jones, son of John ap Rhys y Cigwr of Brecon, archdeacon of Brecon, and afterwards chancellor of York. He resigned this prebend, upon which Griffith Toye, who is described as of Cambridge succeeded him.

<sup>3</sup> Elias Wrench was B.D., rector of Trent in Somersetshire, of which he was ousted by the Oliverian party in 1657, and one Thomas Barker presented in his stead; he was likewise deprived of the living of Llangammarch by the propagators of the gospel in Wales, about the year 1652, after which it was vacant nine years: (Walker's *Sufferings*.) Simon Wrench was his son.

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Prydderch subscribes himself as *rector* of Llangammarch in 1644; he was of the Llandevailog family, and being a presbyterian, we assume he was *planted* there by the propagators of the gospel in Wales.

<sup>5</sup> On the resignation of Mr. Lucy.

<sup>6</sup> He was buried at Carmarthen, in the chancel of which church is his bust, which is perfectly grotesque; of what composition it consists, whether stone, wood or marble, we know not; the face is white and his gown and cassock painted black, he seems to be leaning over half door of a bookseller's shop, and calling out to his customers, "Walk in gentlemen and see what ye want to buy." Below is an inscription, informing us that he was born in Llangadoc in 1661, of Jesus Calias in 1696, to the Dreadnought in 1697, vicar of Llangammarch in 1709, which he ceded on being presented to Carmarthen and Llanegwad, and died in 1730.

<sup>7</sup> On the resignation of Theophilus Evans, he exchanged, with the consent of his diocesan, Llangammarch for Llywel. Mr. Prothero, who lived at Dolgaer, did not survive this event much more than a year.



## LLANYNIS.

WE are completely at a loss to define the names of this or the adjoining parish; from the situation of the church in a low and level situation on the south bank of the Irvon, we should have been led to conclude that it might have been once insulated, and that it might have been called Lan yn yr Ynis or Islechurch, but then what becomes of Maesmynis, which being situated on a hill with no river or water near it, can never be supposed to have been an island, so that we must leave this parish without dedication and its name without definition. Adams places Llanynis in latitude 52 10, longitude 3 22. If he takes his bearing from the church (for there is a building here so called) he is incorrect, as it is very nearly in the same latitude as Builth, and certainly not half a mile southward of it; if he means from the confines of the parish on Epynt he may be right.

In this parish as before noticed, was Porth y erwys or the Portal of the cross, the residence of John Lloyd, “squere to the bodie of Queen Elizabeth” during the latter part of his life; there are now no remains of this house, unless a beautiful Saxon cross,<sup>1</sup> (seen in plate VIII. figure I.) though now in the wall of another tenement in this parish, called Neuadd Siarmam, once formed part of the Portal of the Cross, or at least stood near it. From Mr. Lloyd this estate descended to his eldest son, whose daughter married John Prichard of Pont faen, in Merthyr: in 1638 it was in the possession of one of the family of Games, of the name of Thomas Games, but how he acquired it we know not, or how it afterwards went to John Davies, sheriff of Breconshire in 1703, who was described as then of Cefnlllys gwyn. Some few years before 1800, it was sold by a Brydges of Tibberton to Mr. Evan Thomas of Llwynmadoc.

Part of this parish runs southward and consists entirely of mountain; in the vale below, there is very good arable land, and on the banks of Irvon some fertile meadows with groves of thriving timber intermixed, but unless the attack at Pont y coed, upon Llewelyn, prince of Wales, as related in the first volume, be recollected, there is little in this parish worthy of attention or interesting to the historian or antiquary.

There is no table of benefactions hung up in the church, but a tenement called Tyr Twppa, in Maesmynis, is charged by the will of Howell Lewis of Blan Dihonw, gent., in 1674, with the payment of twenty shillings to the poor of this parish annually.

The rectory, which is of trifling value is in the collation of the bishop. There are about three acres of glebe, and there was a parsonage house in this parish, which was in ruins at the Restoration, and has never since been rebuilt. It is called, in Pope Nicholas's taxation, Lanenus, and is valued, together with Maesmenus or Maesmynis, at £5 0s. 0d.; tenths 10s. The certified yearly value in Queen Anne's time, was £25. Value in the *Liber Regis* £8 14s. 5d.; Syn. and Prox. 5s. 5d.; arch-deacon's procurations 1s. 10d. The register book goes back to 1731, and the living is discharged from the payments of first fruits.

### LATER PARTICULARS.

Llanynis had a population of 195 in 1891, and this had been reduced to 136 in 1901. Its area is 2,250 acres and the approximate rateable value £951. The parish is in the Builth Rural District, Petty Sessional Division, and Polling district, and it forms part of the Rhosferig electoral division. The district is purely agricultural.

The present church of St. Llyr was rebuilt in 1887 at a cost of £2,000, and it is a small stone edifice in the early English style; there is a chancel, nave, south porch, and a turret with one bell. Accommodation has been provided for about 100.

The living is annexed to that of Maesmynis, and the Rector lives in that parish; the joint net income was £178 in 1905 with three acres of glebe and a substantial vicarage house. Both livings are in the Bishop of St. David's gift.

Tyn y graig is the property of the Woosnam family, and the present house was built in 1890-91, by Bowen Pottinger Woosnam, Esq., J.P.; but it is at the period of writing in the occupation of

<sup>1</sup> In 1900 a writer described this cross as being one of the most elegant in Wales. It was then inserted in the wall of a cottage called Neuadd Siarmam at Llanynis, 3 miles west from Builth, south of the road to Llandovery, on the opposite side of the river Wye. The stone is 57 inches long and from 8 to 12 inches wide.



Philip S. Phillips, Esq. J.P. Cefn llys gwynne is the residence of Charles William Woosnam, Esq., J.P. Both houses are very substantial, and nicely situated.

There is a Methodist Chapel here, and a public elementary school was built for 50 children in 1870.

## THE WOOSNAM PEDIGREE.

Bowen Pottinger Woosnam, of Tynygraig, J.P. and D.L. for cos. Brecon and Montgomery, high sheriff for the former 1893, B.A. Oxford, member of the Inner Temple, *b.* 30 March, 1850; *m.* 15 Aug. 1876, Kate, dau. of William Evans, of The Fields, co. Monmouth, and has issue,

1. RICHARD BOWEN, *b.* 17 Nov. 1880.
1. Kate Majorie, *b.* 11 May, 1877; *m.* 19 May, 1900, Randal Plunkett Taylor Hawksley, Lieut. R.E.
2. Mary Dorothy, *b.* 10 April, 1879; *m.* 5 April, 1902, Rhodri Vaughan Lloyd Philipps, of Dale Castle.
3. Florence Gwendolen, *b.* 20 Dec. 1883.

## LINEAGE.

The ancestors of this family came to England with WILLIAM III, and settled in the co. Montgomery, where they have been landowners ever since.

RICHARD WOOSNAM, of Tymawr, co. Montgomery, *m.* Anne Bowen, of Tyddyn, Llandinam, who *d.* 15 Aug. 1800. He was buried at Trefeglwys, 17 April, 1781, leaving a son,

BOWEN WOOSNAM, of Glandwr, co. Montgomery, bapt. 5 July, 1771; *m.* 25 Jan. 1805, Elizabeth, dau. of Charles Cole (she was *b.* 10 Jan. 1788, and *d.* 12 July, 1861). He *d.* 3 Sept. 1841, and left issue,

1. Charles Thomas, *m.* Harriett Peele, and *d.s.p.* 28 Jan. 1869.
2. JAMES BOWEN, proceeded in 1828 from the Military Coll. of Addiscombe to Bombay as a Lieut. of Artillery, and in that branch of H.M.'s army he attained the rank of Major-Gen., having chiefly served in the Horse Artillery. He accompanied Lord Keane to Ghuznee and Cabul, and bore the medals granted for the capture of the former place, and also for the taking of Khilat. He was *b.* 28 Jan. 1812; *m.* 1837, Agnes, dau. of William Bell, of Bellevue, Queen's Co. She *d.* 6 April, 1895. He *d.* 14 Oct. 1877, leaving issue,
  1. JAMES BOWEN, *b.* 8 Dec. 1853.
  2. Charles Maxwell (Ven.), Hon. Canon of Chester Cathedral, formerly Archdeacon of Macclesfield, M.A. Trin. Coll. Camb., Vicar of St. Margaret's, Dunham Massey, late Rector of Kirkby-Wiske and Vicar of St. Peter's, Tynemouth, *b.* 6 Aug. 1856, *m.* 3 Nov. 1886, Mary Seeley, dau. of Hilton Philipson, and has issue,
    - (1) Charles Hilton, *b.* 19 Jan. 1889.
    - (2) Maxwell, *b.* 6 Sept. 1892.
    - (1) Monica, *b.* 3 May, 1898.
    - (2) Gaynor, *b.* 17 Aug. 1900.
1. Elizabeth.
2. Esther, *m.* 1882, Surg.-Gen. Theobalds, and *d.* 1884.
3. Ellen, *m.* 1877, Rev. J. Lunt, and has issue.
4. Katherine.
5. Amy, *m.* 1875, Rev. D. A. Maxwell, and has issue.
6. Grace, *m.* 1883, Dr. A. P. Wells, and has issue.

3. RICHARD, of Glandwr.

1. Elizabeth Alicia, *m.* Rev. George Fisher, M.A., Chaplain R.N., and to Greenwich Hospital, by whom she had a son, George, and two daus., Alice and Elizabeth.

The 3rd son,

RICHARD WOOSNAM, of Glandwr, co. Montgomery, and Tyn-y-graig, co. Brecknock, J.P. for both cos., *b.* 9 April, 1815; *m.* 25 Nov. 1845, Margaret, dau. of William Bell, of Bollview, near Abbeyleix, in Queen's Co., and had issue,

1. BOWEN POTTINGER, his heir.
2. Richard Burgass, *b.* 19 Sept. 1851, B.A. Camb.; *m.* 10 Dec. 1874, Harriette Hamilton, dau. of John Partington Gray, of Ballyroan, Queen's Co.
3. Charles William, of Cefnllysgwynne, Builth Wells, co. Brecon, J.P. cos., Brecon and Montgomery, *b.* 12 Oct. 1853, B.A. Oxford; *m.* 25 April, 1883, Minnie Sophia, dau. of William Allen, of Endcliffe, Sheffield, and has, with other issue, Ralph William, *b.* 1887.
1. Margaret Helena, *b.* 11 Jan. 1847.
2. Caroline Eliza, *b.* 4 July, 1848.
3. Mary Alice, *b.* 11 Sept. 1856.

Mr. Woosnam was M.A. Cambridge, a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and a Surgeon in the Bombay Army. He accompanied Sir Henry Pottinger on his Special Mission as Plenipotentiary to China in 1841, as Surgeon to the Mission, and he subsequently acted as Secretary of Legation, and was Deputy Colonial Secretary at Hong Kong. He was present at most of the operations of the United Naval and Military Forces, which resulted in the conclusion of the first Treaty with China, which was dictated by Sir Henry Pottinger at Nankin in 1842, and he bore the medal granted for that occasion. On Sir Henry Pottinger being sent to the Cape of Good Hope in 1846, as Her Majesty's High Commissioner, Mr. R. Woosnam was appointed Secretary to that Commission, and he subsequently, in 1848, accompanied Sir Henry Pottinger when he was promoted to Madras, and was his Private Secretary during his government of that Presidency. He died 27 Nov. 1888.

ARMS.—Per pale sa. and az., a lion passant arg., between four pheons three in chief and one in base or. *Crest*—In a fern brake ppr., a snake nowed or, thereon preying an eagle also ppr. guttee de larmes.



## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1408.—The Crown p. h. v.		——— ap David.	1728.—Ditto.		Theophilus Evans, <i>ceded</i> .
1555.—The Bishop of St. David's		John Vaughan.	1738.—Ditto.		Jenkin Williams.
1560.—Ditto.		Walter Powel.	1739.—Ditto.		Thomas Pugh.
1594.—Ditto.		Richard Watkin.	1761.—Ditto.		Jeffrey Griffiths.
1601.—Ditto.		Bartholomew Carter.	1780.—Ditto.		James Evans, <i>ceded</i> .
1604.—Ditto.		Walter Perrott.	1799.—Ditto.		John Williams.
1622.—Ditto.		Thomas Williams.			Thomas Bowen.
1631.—Ditto.		William Prichard.	1807.—Ditto.		Benjamin Howels.
1646.—Ditto.		Samuel Prichard. <sup>1</sup>	1807.—Ditto.		Charles Price (died 1849). <sup>2</sup>
1676.—Ditto.		John Williams.	1852.—Ditto.		William Williams. <sup>3</sup>
1694.—Ditto.		William Williams.	1902.—Ditto.		Chas. Frederick Harrison.
		David Gwynne.			

## MAESMYNIS.

THIS church is situated on an eminence between the rivers Irvon and Dihonw, in latitude 52 9, longitude 3 22, and is dedicated to Saint David. This, like the other churches, is a poor building, but the ceiling of the chancel is interesting; it is divided by cross ribs, and boards are placed under the tile, formed into seventy two panels or compartments, on each of which, in water colours, are the outlines of two lions sejant, with scrolls under them, having the words *Nal or Nas*, "is this," in German text.<sup>4</sup> We have sought in vain for an explanation of these figures and inscriptions, and at last we must leave them to the ingenuity of our readers. The editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in answer to a letter on the subject, refers us to a ring found at Towton Field, and suggests that the words may be "Now thus." This was certainly the motto of one of the ancestors of Anne Bullen, a collateral branch of which family settled in Breconshire, but independently of their having no property in this part of the country, and the phrase never having been used by the Bullens of Breconshire, the last two words here are evidently "is this," so that we must yet travel further a-field before the meaning of the monk who dedicated them is discovered; for of that description we conceive the limner and writer to have been, from the representation of broad winged angels round the cornice, bearing shields on their breasts, on which are depicted the cross, nails, scourges, &c. Many of these angels have now vanished, and the lions are preparing to pursue them with all possible despatch; indeed, as this work was (as we apprehend) executed some few years before the Reformation, the state of the repairs of the churches in this country must have been more attended to formerly than at present, or they would not have remained so long; for every shower of rain now defaces more or less of one or other of these figures or letters. In this chancel are buried several of the Priests of Aberneiddon. In the pine end wall are their arms, viz., Cradoc Fraich Fras, the chevron gules, empaling Elystan, crest on a wreath, a parrot proper, beaked *Or*, holding a bloody hand in his bill; inscription, Charles Price of Abercynithon, gent. *obit* August 3, 1758; two infant grandchildren, daughters of his son, John Price of Brecon, mereer, are also interred here. On the wall, outside, in the churchyard, David Price, *obit* 1767; Margaret Hurdman, her sister, in 1780, aged eighty two. (Arms, Rhys Goeh. Motto, *Modestia vestra notabitur omnibus*.)

The parsonage house and barn adjoin the churchyard. They are miserable thatched buildings, built by Mr. Jacob James, rector of this parish, in the year 1694; to which about seven or eight acres of glebe are attached. There is no table of benefactions hung up in the church; notwithstanding the tenement called Tyr Twppa, mentioned in the last parish, is likewise charged by the will of the same Howel Lewis, with the payment of twenty shillings annually to the poor of Maesmynis, as is also Cwmlhwyne and Cae glas, in this parish, with the payment of ten shillings annually to the poor, by the will of Rees Meredith, in 1779. The surface of this part of the country is extremely

<sup>1</sup> He was collated by the bishop in the dwelling house of Edward Games of Newton, esq.

<sup>2</sup> He was grandfather of C. E. Weaver Price, of Brecon (*see pedigree*).

<sup>3</sup> This incumbent left £1,000 to augment the living.

<sup>4</sup> See plate VIII, fig. 6.



uneven, consisting of high hilly ground or deep narrow vales, without much wood, though here and there a grove improves the landscape; one of these vales, running up as far as Cwmawen (correctly we believe, Cwmawel, or windy dingle), is called Cwmbwch, from the little river Bwch, or the buck, which intersects it; another follows the course of the Dihonw, separating as it proceeds downwards this parish from Llanddewi'r cwm.

This small rectory is in the collation of the Bishop of the See, as is indeed every other in the hundred, except the perpetual curacies of Builth and Llanddewi'r cwm. The certified value was forty pounds, *valor in libro regis* £7 1s. 3d. Archdiaconal procurations 1s. 10d. The parish register goes back to 1687, and the rectory is discharged from the payment of first fruits.

The rector's house has lately been almost re-built. There is also a sum of money, as we are informed, amounting to £214 5s. 9d., vested in the old South Sea Annuities, the interest of which is directed by an anonymous benefactor to be paid annually to the minister of Maesmynis in augmentation of the living.

#### LATER PARTICULARS.

The foregoing is Theophilus Jones' narrative of this parish. A few mis-descriptions occur which require adjustment. The arms of the Prices of Abercnithon have been erroneously blazoned, and the account of the inscription (hereinafter quoted) on the tombstone respecting the Rev. David Price contains errata which would no doubt be accounted for by a line being dropped in typing from the original manuscript. The last few lines of the first paragraph (as regards arms) should read:—In this chancel are buried several of the Prices of Abercnithon (Aberknithon or Abercneiddon); on the North-east wall are their arms, as descendants of Cradoc Fraich Fras, viz., Azure, a Chevron Argent between three spear heads, two and one, points upwards embued gules (Bleddin ap Macnarch); charged with a crescent, argent (Trahaern); impaling, Sable, a Lion rampant regardant Or, (Elystan Glodrydd); Crest on a wreath, vert, a dragon's head erased, holding in its mouth a sinister hand embued gules (Rhys Goch). Motto: "*Modestia Vestra notabitur omnibus.*" Since the History was written, the old church has been demolished and a new and substantial edifice erected on the same site. The stones relating to the Prices, and others, which were formerly in the chancel, have been removed from there and are placed in the porch, the inscriptions upon them being as follows:—

(1) On East side of porch:—"Near this place lies interred the body of Charles Price of Aberknithon, Gent. He departed this life August ye 3rd 1758 aged 59." "Likewise near this place lies interred the body of Anna Maria Price, eldest daughter of John Price of Brecon, Mercer, and granddaughter of the above Charles Price. She died April ye 27th 1761, aged 2 years and 10 months." "Also near this place lies interred the body of Catherine Price, second daughter of ye said John Price; she died June ye 9th 1761 aged 6 months." This stone shews the Arms, Crest and Motto previously described.

(2) On West side:—"Sacred to the memory of John Wr. Price of Tyn-y-graig, Gent., who departed this life ye 4th of June 1803 aged 65 years." "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Price wife of the said John Weaver Price who departed this life ye 2nd of Decr. 1819 aged 82 years." This John Weaver Price was a Captain in the Merchant Service, having been on the "Randolph" from 1760 to 1773, and left in the latter year to reside on his estate, and there are a couple of quaint verses inscribed on the stone, which are appropriate to one who "followed the sea." They are as follows:—

Though Gusty winds, and gulfy waves  
Have tost me to and fro,  
By God's behest,  
The port of rest  
I'm laid in here below,  
Where I must my moorings make,  
Among the mortal fleet,  
Till heaven shall hail  
Us *all* to sail  
Our admiral Christ to meet.

When God ordains the final blow,  
The heart may wish, ye tear may flow,  
But can't the dead restore.  
Yet comfort dawns from realms above  
When kindred souls in endless love  
Shall meet to part no more.

Qualis vita finis ita.

(3) On West side:—"Sacred to the memory of John Weaver Price, Gent., of Garthfelin in this parish, who departed this life the 27th of May 1839, in the 66th year of his age."



(4) Over the door of the Church:—"M.S. Of the Revd. Charles Price, Rector of Llanynis and Curate of Maesmynis, and a Magistrate of the County for 28 years. He died March 28th 1849." "Also to the memory of Maria Anne, Relict of the abovesaid, who died February 25th 1863 aged 80 years." This stone also shews the family Arms, Crest and Motto.

(5) On East side:—"Sacred to the pious memory of the Reverend Thomas Bowen, late Rector of Maesmynis and Llanynis, whose mortal remains are deposited in this Churchyard. He exchanged the Troubles of Time for the Treasures of Eternity, on the 23rd of September 1807, in the 56th year of his age." "Likewise to the pious memory of Mary Bowen, Relict of the abovenamed Thomas Bowen, she died ye 17th of April 1831 aged 75 years." "De Morte Mortalibus Loquere Lapis."

#### JOHN WESLEY AND MAESMYNIS.

On a tombstone now placed on the ground in the churchyard on the north side and close to the North-east corner of the Church is an inscription which reads:—"Here lyeth interred ye body of David Price late of Garthfelin, in this parish, vicr. of Llangammarch, he departed this life Septr. ye 27, 1738, aged 75." "Also the body of Mary ye widow and relict of Charles Price of Aberknithon, Gent, and daughter of David Price aforesaid, deceased ye 12 day of October 1767 aged 67." "And also the body of Margaret Hurdman, Widow, and daughter likewise of ye said D. Price, who died April ye 10th 1780, in ye 82nd year of her age." Before the rebuilding of the Church this stone was on a tomb, on the same spot, and raised about 30 inches above ground; here it was that John Wesley preached upon his first, or subsequent, visit to the County. It is recorded in his diary thus:—

"May 1743, Wednesday 3rd, came to Builth . . . Mr. Phillips, the rector of Maesmynis, (at whose invitation I came), soon took knowledge of me. . . . I preached on a tomb at the east end of the Church at four, and again at seven. Mr. Gwynne and Mr. Prothero, Justices of the Peace, stood on either hand of me."

John Wesley appears to have paid many visits to Maesmynis and neighbourhood, and in his diary it is recorded:—"1744. April 21.—I rode to Garth and on Sunday preached in the Church there morning and afternoon. Monday 23rd. I preached in Maesmynis Church, and afterwards in the Churchyard at Builth. Tuesday 24th. I preached at Maesmynis again, and about five, in Llanthew Church, near Brecknock."

In the following year (August 22nd, 1745), he preached at Garth, Maesmynis, Builth and Llanthew. Again in "1746. August, Tuesday 12th, and several days were spent at Maesmynis, Builth and Llansaintfread. On Friday after taking a sweet leave of the loving people of Maesmynis we rode with honest John Price of Mertha to his house."

In August 1747 he called at Garth en route to and from Ireland, and on his return journey visited Builth, Maesmynis and Llansaintfread. This seems to have been the last time he was at Maesmynis, although he was on several subsequent occasions, between that time and 1788, at Garth, Builth, Brecon and Hay. The following extract from his diary throws a considerable light upon his friendship with the Gwynnes and the many visits to Garth:—"1749. April, Friday 7th.—We reached Garth. Saturday 8th. I married my brother and Sarah Gwynne. It was a solemn day, such as became the dignity of a christian marriage." The Sarah Gwynne referred to was a daughter of Marmaduke Gwynne of Garth, one of the justices of the peace mentioned by Wesley in 1743.

The last of the Price family buried in this parish is recorded on a stone in the South-east end of the church-yard thus:—"Modestia vestra notabitur omnibus. I.H.S. In loving memory of Charles Weaver Price, born at Tynygraig, Llanynis, on the 5th November 1808, died at Garthfelin, in this parish, on the 13th April 1878." "Also of Mary his wife, born at Baileybrith, in this county, on the 15th June 1816, and died at Builth on the 9th April 1895." "Also of Richard Bowcott, their youngest son, born at Tynygraig on the 17th April 1856, died at Pwllhelig on the 10th May 1892, and interred at Llanwonno churchyard Glamorganshire." Another stone near by records:—"To the memory of Mary Davies of Persondy in this parish, Relict of Roger Davies, formerly of Baileybrith in this county. She died November 1st 1859, aged 69 years."



## PEDIGREE OF PRICES OF ABERCNITHON, TYNYGRAIG AND GARTHFFELIN.

The following table shews the pedigree of the Prices up to the present time (1908), and in compiling it only the direct line has been taken, all off-shoots and collateral branches having been left out, so as to obviate dealing with an immensity of descendants and intermarriages:—

Gwraldeg, King of Garthmadryn, now Brecknock, about the year of Christ 230. (In a MS. in the British Museum he is said to have lived towards the latter end of 1st Century, and another account says began his reign prior to A.D. 72.)

Morfydd, (or Morvytha), sole heiress m. Teithall (or Tathall) ap Annwn Dhu, (or Antonius Niger,) Circa A.D. 260.

Teithin, (or Tydheirn), King of Garthmadryn.

Irith y blawd, King of Garthmadryn.

Teidfalt, (Teithphaltim or Teithwalch), King of Garthmadryn. Circa A.D. 342.

Tydyr, (Tudor or Tewdrig), King of Garthmadryn.

Marchell, (or Marcella,) sole heiress m. Aulach (Aullech, Afalach or Olave), son of Cornach McCarbery, or Cormac MacEurbre Gwyddel, (or, as others called Coronawg, or Corineog,) King of Ireland. (Aulach was buried at Llanspyddid—before the Church door—in 5th century.)

Brychan Brecheiniog (or Brychan Yrth), King of Garthmadryn (since called Brecheiniog or Brecknock after him) began his reign in A.D. 400 and died about 450.

Gwon (or Gwenllian), 16th d. of Brychan, wife of Llyr-merini (or Molwynen), lord of Gloucester.

Cradoc Fraich Fras (or Caradoc of the Strong Arm) lord of Gloucester, Knight of the Dolorous Tower and of the Round Table of King Arthur, m. Tegau's Vron d. of King Pelynor (Fortasse Pyll Mawr).

Cawrdaf, King of Ferreg and Brecon, m.

Caw ap Cawrdaf, King of Ferreg and Brecon. m.

Gloyw, King of Ferreg and Brecon, m.

Hoyw, King of Ferreg and Brecon, m.

Cynvarch, ap Hoyw, m.

Cyndeg ap Cynvarch, m.

Teithwalch ap Cyndeg, m.

Tegydd ap Teithwalch, m.

Anharawd ap Tegydd, m.

Gwendy ap Anharawd, m.

Gwngy (or Gwngy ap Gwendy), m.

Hydd Hwgan (or Huganus) elder brother of Einon from whom descended Rhys Goch.

Dryffin (or Sir Drifflin ap Hwgan), m. Crusilla d. of Idwal ap Meurig.

Maenarch (or Maenyrch), Prince of Brecknock, m. Elinor (or Elen) d. of Einon ap Selyff lord of Cwmwd and Cantreff-Selyff, who was 15th from Cradoc Fraich Fras.

Bleddin ap Maenarch (or Bleddin ap Maenyrch), the last independent Sovereign of Brecheiniog, m. Elinor d. of Tewdwr Mawr and sister of Rhys ap Tewdwr, Prince of South Wales, tempo. William Rufus.

Gwgan (or Gwrgan), m. Gwenllian d. and heiress of Phillip Gwys, lord of Gwyston (since called Wiston), in Pembrokeshire.

Trahaern, (2nd son of Gwgan), lord of Llangorse, m. Joan d. of Bleddin, lord of Cilsant.

Howel, m. Gwenllian d. of Griffith ap Ivor, lord of Sanghenith.

Rhys of Aberllynfi, m. Cath. d. of Griffith Gwyr (or Gower).

Einon Sais. (or Einon the Englishman) tempo. Edward III. (3rd son of Rhys), m. Joan d. of Howel, Lord of Miscin.

Rhys ap Einon Sais, (2nd son of Einon) m. Elen 2nd. d. of Llewelyn ap Howel Hen (or the Old), lord of Cwmwd

Adam of Porth yr Ogof, m. Gladis d. of Llewelyn ap Howel Melin (or the Sallow).

(See next page.)



(Continued from previous page.)

Rhys Llwyd, m. Lleici d. of Howel Gwalter Rhys ap Rhosser Goch.

Gwilym ap Rhys Llwyd, m. Marg. d. of John Ieuan.

Llewel. m. Joan. d. of Rees Jenkin.

Gwilym Gam, m. Eisil d. of D. Jenkin Awbrey.

Rhys, m. Gwenllian d. of Howel Madoc.

Sir John Price (or John ap Rhys) of the Priory, Brecon, knighted in the reign of Henry VIII, m. Joan d. of John Williams of Southwark, died 1553 or 1572 (date uncertain).

John Price (3rd son of Sir John) m. Elizabeth d. of John Games.

Thomas Price, of the Priory, Brecon (grandson and heir-male of Sir John Price), m.

Charles Price, of Builth and Abercnithon, Solicitor, m.

Edward Price of Abercnithon, (m. Elizabeth d. of ———) Architect for partial rebuilding of Builth after its being burnt down in 1691.

Edward Price of Tynygraig, m. Anne d. of John Weaver of Blaenant Bettws.

John Weaver Price, of Tynygraig (born 1738, died 1803) m. 6th May, 1770, Elizabeth d. of Charles Price of Abercnithon, and granddaughter of David Price of Garthfelin, late Vicar of Llangammarch.

Charles Price (2nd son of Captain John Weaver Price), Rector of Llanynis and Curate of Maesmynis (born 1775, died 1849), m. 13th July, 1804, Maria Anne d. of Revd. Thomas Bowen, Rector of Maesmynis and Llanynis.

Charles Weaver Price, of Tynygraig and Garthfelin (born 1808, died 1878) m. 1st October, 1844, Mary d. of Roger Davies of Baileybrith and had issue :—

Charles Edward Weaver Price, b. 14th September, 1845, m. (14th September, 1875,) Alice Ann eldest d. of the late Richard Fryer of Brecon, and has issue :—

Charles Weaver, b. 12th June, 1876, m. (27th June, 1906,) Rhianedd Mary Gwendolen d. of the late Gwilym Jones of Pwllhelig.

Thomas Richard Bowcott Price, b. 23rd November, 1846.

Elizabeth Mary Davies Price, b. 21st February, 1848, m. Gwilym Jones of Ffynondwym and Pwllhelig, Glam., and has issue :—

Charles Gwilym Thomas, b. 11th October, 1879, m. Gladys Ann, fifth d. of Thomas Harry of Llanwensan Fawr, Glam.

Rhianedd Mary Gwendolen, b. 24th February, 1881, m. Charles Weaver Price, son of Charles Edward Weaver Price of North House, Brecon.

Mary Elizabeth Maud, b. 25th October, 1883.

Joan Margaret, b. 9th December, 1886.

Mabel Grace, b. 15th June, 1889.

John Weaver Roger Price, b. 25th November, 1849, m. Mary d. of David Sibbons of Newcastle Mon., and has issue nine sons and daughters.

Mary Jennett Bowen Price, b. 16th March, 1851, m. Philip Bach of Great Quobb, Eardisley, (died 8th December, 1904), and had issue :—

Mary Jennette, b. 20th July, 1884.

Annie Ermina, b. 24th July, 1886.

David William Bowcott Price, b. 3rd December, 1852.

Anne Price, b. 26th May, 1854, died (unmarried) 7th May, 1901.

Richard Bowcott Price, b. 17th April, 1856 died (unmarried) 10th May, 1892.

Margaret Price, b. 14th November, 1859.

Jane Maud Price, b. 14th March, 1861.

The Rev. Charles Price referred to herein had one daughter, Maria Ann Bowen, who married Thomas Powell of Builth, surgeon, and had issue Maria Anne Bowen Price (died young); Thomas Bowen Watkin (had issue two sons and died); Charles John Cadogan, who married Elizabeth daughter of William Thomas of Builth, emigrated to New Zealand about 1879 and died there 10th October, 1906; he had three sons and four daughters. The Powells are of the same family as the eminent physician, Sir Douglas R. Powell, one of the physicians in ordinary to King Edward VII., and whose portrait and pedigree is given in the *History of Radnorshire*.

## THE CHARITIES.

With regard to the Lewis and unknown charities, applicable to the Parishes of Llanynis and Maesmynis, the Board of Charity Commissioners, upon application made to them in 1905, by the Rev. Charles F. Harrison, rector, and others the churchwardens of both parishes, made an order, sealed 14th December, 1906, appointing new trustees, &c. From this document we learn that there were to be two ex-officio trustees, four representative trustees, one co-opted, and one nominated trustee so long as the benefices of Llanynis and Maesmynis remain united. The scheme gives the trustees power to appoint a clerk at a salary of not more than £2 2s. 0d. a year; and to defray all costs of administration out of the funds. The following is the schedule of property: Rent charge issuing



Fig. 1.

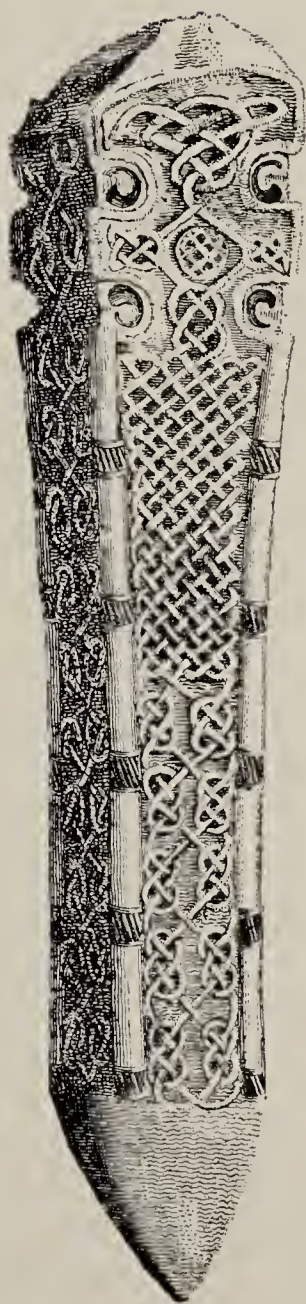


Fig. 2.

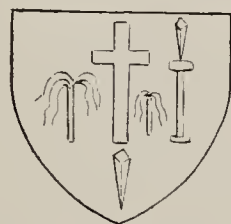
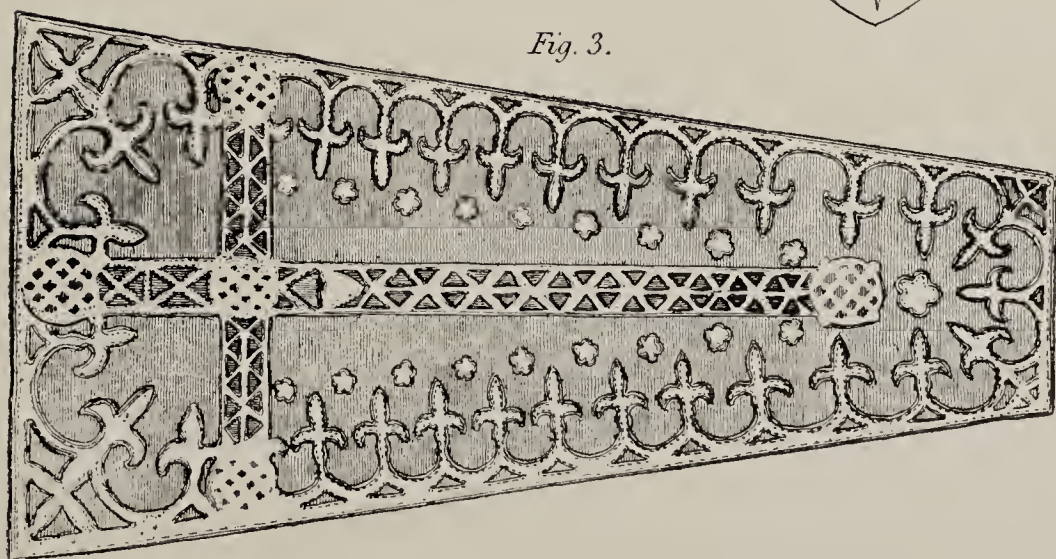


Fig. 3.



## PLATE VIII.

*From Drawings by Rev. T. Price ("Carnhuanawc")*

Fig. 1. Saxon Cross at Llanynis. Fig. 2. Remains of Panels at Maesmynis.







out of freehold land known as Tyrtwppa in Llanynis, then in the control of Mrs. Jones, and of the value of £2 yearly; £573 11s. 8d. India 3 per cent Stock with the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, realising £17 4s. 0d.; £20 in the same Stock in the names of Charles William Woosnam and Rev. C. F. Harrison, realizing 12s.; Consols, £225 19s. 9d. in the name of Charles William Woosnam realizing £5 12s. 8d.—a total income in 1906 of £25 8s. 8d. Of this sum £4 was yearly to be devoted to the education of poor children of the two parishes, and the residue of the said income was to be paid for the benefit of the industrious poor of the said parishes, not receiving parochial relief, in any of the under-mentioned ways: Subscriptions to any dispensary, infirmary, hospital, or convalescent home, whether general or special, so that the benefits of those institutions may be obtained for the objects of the charities; any provident club or society established in or near the interested parishes for the supply of coal, clothing or other necessities; any duly registered Provident or Friendly Society accessible to the inhabitants of the interested parishes; also the travelling expenses of patients to and from such institutions as are mentioned above, and the cost of providing proper care and supervision (including any necessary cost of locomotion) for poor persons requiring temporary change of air or special protection or treatment; or the supply, to an amount not exceeding in either parish £6 in any one year, of (a) clothes, linen, bedding, fuel, tools, medical or other aid in sickness, food, or other articles in kind; (b) temporary relief in money, by way of loan or otherwise, in case of unexpected loss or sudden destitution. But it is expressly stipulated that “The funds of the Charity shall in no case be applied in aid of any rates for the relief of the poor or other purposes, in either parish, or so that any individual or institution may become entitled to a periodical or recurrent benefit therefrom.”

Maesmynis—the name should probably be Maesmynydd (the mountain field) or perhaps Maesmynach (Monk’s field)—is situated south west of Builth Wells, and has a population of 207, its area being 4,012 acres. The approximate rateable value is £1,280. The parish is in the Builth Rural District, Petty Sessional division, and polling district, and forms part of Rhosferig Electoral District.

The present church was restored in 1878 at a cost of £850, and affords 80 sittings. It is an edifice of stone, consisting of chancel, nave, porch, and a turret containing one bell. There is a handsome lych-gate, erected in 1903 by the Misses Williams of Trephilip, Defynnock, in memory of their brother, the Rev. William Williams, who was rector of the parish for 50 years. The living is annexed to that of Llanynis the joint net value being £178 yearly, with a rectory house and three acres of glebe. The endowment was added to in 1893, viz., the Bishop £300, Diocesan Society £100, Queen Anne’s Bounty £400, and it was also augmented by £1,000 under the will of the late rector (Revd. Wm. Williams).

There is a Congregational Chapel in the parish, and a public elementary school, built in 1878, with accommodation for 60 children, has an average attendance of 31.

## LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.	DATES OF INSTITUTIONS.	PATRONS.	INCUMBENTS.
1491.—The Bishop of Saint David’s has uniformly and invari- ably presented to this rec- tory.		Hugh ap Evan.	1633.—		Thomas Perrott.
1554.—		William David Rogers.	1649.—		William Jones. <sup>1</sup>
1574.—		William Meredith.	1661.—		David Jones. <sup>2</sup>
1575.—		— Roberts.	1684.—		Jacob James.
1594.—		Bartholomew Carter.	1737.—		David Jones.
1601.—		David Matthew.	1740.—		Edward Philips.
1617.—		Thomas Meredith.	1777.—		Thomas Williams.
			1783.—		James Philips.
			1796.—		Thomas Bowen.
			1807.—		Thomas Williams.
			1852.—		William Williams.
			1902.—		Chas. Frederick Harrison.

<sup>1</sup> He was ousted during the rebellion after which the living was vacant for nine years, and no duty done there, except by one Thomas Evan, a labourer, appointed by the Propagators of the Gospel.

<sup>2</sup> He was licensed to preach, to practice medicine, and to keep a school.







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